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SEE PAGE 13

Some of the top toys tipped for retail success in 2017 were on display at Olympia last week as part of the venue's annual toy fair. A ride-on Disney car, a wooden 'forest cottage' and a hover board were among the most popular items during the fair – Britain's biggest toy show. More than 250 exhibitors – including Lego, Playmobil and TOMY – showcased new products and reboots of old favourites over the three days. The woman pictured is holding the popular new Bush Baby toy.



Picture: Tony Kershaw/SWNS

We take centre stage in war on pollution

Borough to become testing ground for pioneering measures to improve city air

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

HAMMERSMITH and Fulham is to become a testing ground for pioneering anti-pollution measures after bold new steps were unveiled in a bid to tackle the borough's toxic-air crisis.

The borough has been earmarked as a "neighbourhood of the future" that will lead the way in the fight against filthy air across the capital.

A series of announcements were made last week as London mayor Sadiq Khan issued his first "very high" pollution alert.

They include investing hundreds of thousands of pounds to turn Hammersmith town centre into a "zero emissions zone" and setting up innovative drainage schemes.

Special air-quality audits could also be carried out at some of the borough's most polluted schools as part of a plan to protect children

from toxic fumes. There are further proposals to create new low-emission bus routes and reduce pollution on the roads.

The measures come amid warnings that the borough remains among the worst-affected pollution hotspots in London.

Shirley Rodrigues, Mr Khan's deputy mayor for environment and energy, said the schemes would play a key role in cleaning up air in Hammersmith and Fulham – and could lead the way for pioneering projects across the UK.

"Tackling London's poor air quality is a public-health emergency that requires bold action at all levels of government," she said.

"It is only by working closely with councils, businesses and local communities across London that we can fulfil our ambition of being a world leader in tackling the air-pollution crisis."

The Hammersmith town-centre scheme was one of six to be approved by City Hall chiefs last

week. A total of £210,000 will be pumped into the project, which also includes charging points for electric vehicles and sustainable drainage schemes.

Low-emission bus routes have also been given the green light, with new hybrid vehicles to be on the roads by 2020.

The routes will run between Uxbridge Road and Shepherd's Bush, and Chiswick High Road and Kensington.

"Our plan is to make Hammersmith and Fulham the greenest borough in the country," said Cllr Wesley Harcourt, the authority's cabinet member for environment, transport and residents' services.

"Air pollution is one of the biggest public-health problems we face. So these new low-emission bus zones will help us in our drive for a cleaner and healthier borough."

City Hall hopes the investment will serve as a "springboard" for the borough to meet the air-pollu-

tion challenge. It has also earmarked funds to protect polluted schools from the city's toxic air.

Schools in Hammersmith and Fulham are expected to benefit from special audits when detailed proposals are put forward in April.

A document leaked last year revealed that St Paul's Primary and Sacred Heart High School were among the most polluted in London with air vastly exceeding legal nitrogen dioxide limits.

New directives could ban parents who drive gas-guzzling 4x4s from dropping off their children at the school gates or see playgrounds moved to keep them clear of polluted roads.

The announcements follow the shock revelation that dirty air could be contributing to the problem of violent crime in London.

London Weekly News revealed new scientific research last week that pointed to a link between air pollution and crimes such as murder, rape and assault.

Length of pervert's sentence down to mistake by judge

A FORMER David Cameron aide who was convicted for possessing indecent images of children was given a sentence less than half of what it should have been – because of a judge's mistake.

In June, Patrick Rock, pictured, of Fulham, received a two-year conditional discharge after downloading indecent images of scantily clad girls – some as young as 10 – in sexual poses.

It has since emerged that the minimum sentence should have been five years but the error by the judge wasn't spotted until it was too late.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3



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Our Geoff Baker slams BAFTA over Kate – page 14

NHS frontline staff 'are on emotional edge most of time'


Julie Messenger, inset, has been providing expert guidance to the team of filmmakers behind the BBC's groundbreaking series *Hospital*

JULIE Messenger has been working in and around the health service for the last 35 years. In that time she has experienced hospital wards operating close to capacity and nursed patients with the most complex conditions back to health.

But today the challenges of working on the frontline of the NHS are greater than ever – and the mounting pressure places a huge weight of responsibility on the shoulders of doctors and nurses.

"It's such a complex organisation for people to work in," she says. "People are working on an emotional edge most of the time. There are a lot of emotions running high but there is a deep commitment and compassion among staff."

Julie has been providing expert guidance to the team of filmmakers behind the BBC's groundbreaking documentary series *Hospital*.

The six-part series has given the

media unprecedented behind-the-scenes access to the five West London hospitals within the Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust.

As an academic consultant, Julie's role has been to advise the production team on their use of language and selection of footage, helping to ensure that what goes to air is truly reflective of day-to-day life on the wards.

She says the series has shone a light not only on the financial pressures of the Imperial operation but also on the everyday impact of stretched services on ordinary NHS workers.

"This has been the single most pertinent documentary I have worked on that shows how individuals are actually working out there in the health service. It's true and authentic," she says.

"It covers the frustrations people are working under but also the compassion that staff have to do this for service users, despite increasingly complex and difficult working environments."

"Often we see programmes that just scratch the surface but this re-

ally gets under the surface. It looks at what it means to work in the NHS."

Julie now works as head of nursing at the Open University but retains close links to the health service, having spent most of the 1980s working in clinical settings before making the move to education.

She is still in the process of reviewing later episodes of *Hospital* that will be broadcast over the next few weeks, offering feedback and translating medical jargon.

It has been an eye-opening process, she says, to see camera crews given unprecedented access to intensive care units, surgical theatres, patient waiting rooms and even board meetings to lay bare the pressures facing bosses at some of London's biggest hospitals.

Among the major issues the series has uncovered is the desperate shortage of beds and the impossible decisions experts are forced to make when prioritising patients.

"It is a massive infrastructure

job simply to manage beds and the throughput of patients," Julie explains.

"In the show you see what are almost like war rooms being set up to try to cope with it."

"There are consultants talking about the amount of time they are having to spend on bed management rather than clinical care – and there's no easy answer for that."

Imperial is home to many of the world's leading experts in the medical field, and it therefore faces the challenge of coping with specialist trauma cases arriving from outside London.

But the grinding backlog caused by the slow discharge of patients to other services has pushed the operation almost to breaking point.

"One of the surgeons in the programme talks about the elastic of the hospital being stretched and stretched," Julie says. "But there is only so far that it can stretch."

"We know there are difficulties with out-of-hours provision. We know there is poor referral through to social care and that people with long-term complex conditions require highly specialised beds."

"It's all tied into increasing public expectations that they will have care that is leading-edge and pushing boundaries."

Julie has known both sides of the patient-doctor dynamic having spent five years in and out of hospital arranging care for her husband, who died 18 months ago.

She says the programme has highlighted the best of the NHS in extremely testing times.

"These are people with enormous resolve and resilience, and unfortunately it's the norm for people to be working under this level of stress and pressure now."

"It is so important that we keep these issues in the sphere of public debate."

The next episode of Hospital will be broadcast on BBC Two tomorrow (Wednesday) at 9pm.

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Music venues say rates rise will be death knell



Night czar Amy Lane, above, faces more work. Right, Ken Wright, owner of the Phoenix Artist Club, claims "more will be said than done"

FROM PAGE 1

this year and the final plan is due to be adopted in 2019."

But for some venues the lifeline could come too late – for the government is poised to jack up business rates in April which could cosh the clubs. And the mayor's office admits it is worried by the threat of new rates that could run to rises of tens of thousands of pounds.

"The government is reviewing business rates. They are likely to increase for many businesses in the coming months. This is of concern to businesses across London. It could put a number of grassroots music venues at risk, especially those in the centre," said the mayor's office.

"Our research shows grassroots music venues bring £92 million to London's economy every year. They also support 2,260 jobs. On average, each venue spends some £500,000 on developing and showcasing new and emerging talent. London's grassroots venues pay around £2.8 million in business rates each year."

Because of the importance of the small clubs to the economy, Mr Khan is now calling on the government to slash rates to protect the venues.

"If business rates were cut it would be a big boost to venues. It would allow them to invest in upgrading outdated infrastructure. It would mean they could give customers a better experience and it could help stabilise their businesses. We're now looking at the costs and benefits of a business-rates discount for London's grassroots venues and will report later this year," said the mayor's office.

Fears of the repercussions of a rates hike have been echoed by the Music Venues Trust, which first warned of the danger in a 2015 report.

The trust said: "Broadly speaking, when the rental value of a property rises, the business rates also go up. A small Central London venue may be paying tens of thousands of pounds per year in business rates. Our



research shows that very few receive any business-rates relief. Such high core costs mean that venues are economically unviable without financial support.

"The 100 Club on Oxford Street now pays around £50,000 per year in business rates on top of £180,000 in rent and service charges.

"Changes to business rates are made every few years by the Valuation Office Agency. In some areas of the capital, London is anticipating a further rise in business rates when new rateable value assessments come into place in 2017. For The 100 Club this could result in their business rates almost doubling."

The government is also under pressure from the House of Lords to give the clubs a break. A report published by the Lords' Grand Committee in December warned: "A growth in demand for property has led to increasing rents and landlords deciding to sell property and land to developers. This has placed rising financial burdens on pre-existing operators of grassroots music venues."

"Increased rental values lead to business rates going up. Very few venues receive any business-rate relief, making them economically unviable without financial support. This is particularly acute in Central London where rates can cost tens of thousands of pounds."

"The government should offer full relief from business rates for grassroots music venues, recognising their vital community role and financial pressures."

"Unlike many venues across Europe, UK venues do not benefit from subsidy from central government. The average subsidy across Europe is 42 per cent, for France it is 60 per cent. This has a consequence of putting UK grassroots venues at

a competitive disadvantage when attracting international talent."

Mr Ken Wright, owner of the award-winning Phoenix Artist Club off Charing Cross Road, highlighted other pressures facing a number of the West End's small venues.

"We are of course in Camden and have to contend with a late-night levy imposed on us. Across the road in Westminster no such levy exists. Soho has a 48-hour exclusion order in place that moves all of their trouble across to us in Camden," said Mr Wright.

"Unless there is a joined-up, cross-border policy on policing, licensing, noise control and environmental control, there will continue to be disproportionate expenses and liabilities imposed on venues in one borough that neighbouring boroughs escape."

"I can, through sheer hard work and effort, achieve five-star hygiene ratings, win numerous awards, employ young apprentices and offer free use of the venue as a hub for creatives during the day – but a chain coffee shop will be more attractive to landlords and councils anxious to gentrify an area, with no regard to the community worth of an independent venue."

"I'm afraid I'm rather sceptical of claims by politicians to protect and value venues. Put simply, money talks and councils lack either the funds or the will to hold landlords and developers to account."

"The biggest culprit for the death of grassroots venues in Central London has been the central-government-imposed Crossrail, which is of course immune from any commitment to protect small and medium-sized enterprises."

"To sum up my thoughts – when all is said and done, there will be more said than done."

Council blasted over 'worrying' rehoming plan

BY GEOFF BAKER

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WESTMINSTER City Council has been slammed for "worrying" plans to send the borough's homeless to Coventry and other cities in the Midlands.

The Conservative-led council has announced plans that would see increasingly large numbers of Westminster residents who have lost their homes and are in need of temporary accommodation sent to properties in the Midlands.

Furious Labour councillors are fighting a move that would mean hundreds being forced to take a private rented flat that would end any responsibility for Westminster to find them a permanent home.

A spokesman for the Labour councillors said: "Rising homelessness in London is being driven by soaring rents and house prices, a long-term fall in the availability of council housing and cuts in government housing support."

"Many homeless families have people who are in work or act as carers for elderly relatives and they could be at risk if moved to outer London or beyond."

"The council's proposals also show no recognition of the strength of local connections when deciding whether to house them locally."

"According to the council's plans, Coventry, Birmingham and Leicester apparently 'offer the best opportunities' for some of Westminster's residents to be rehoused."

The Labour members are protesting

against the council's aim to acquire 200 new private rented properties, which they say could see up to 40 per cent of next year's new applicants pushed into accepting a one-time offer of a private rented property, thereby ending the council's duty to provide them with social housing in the long term.

"Labour is further dismayed that the current plans do not ensure those with a long-standing local connection be prioritised for the right to stay locally compared to others in similar need," said the spokesman.

"Labour also has demanded a basic commitment that those with care needs, jobs in Central London, children at local schools or a long-standing local connection must not be forced to accept a private rented-sector offer that would end any option for Westminster to eventually supply them with permanent housing."

Labour group leader Cllr Adam Hug said: "This council's decades-long atrocious record on building social and genuinely affordable homes combined with the government's insidious benefit changes have created a perfect storm for Westminster residents in desperate need for temporary accommodation."

"This policy formalises and turbo-charges what has happened in recent years where Westminster residents in temporary accommodation are being sent further and further from home."

"It is essential that Westminster radically improves its council-house building plans and challenges the divisive government policies that underpin these worrying plans."



'Artistic response' to Great War trench

VISITORS to Guildhall Art Gallery's new exhibition in The City will walk through an "artistic response" to a First World War trench to view work by young people from the capital's schools and artist and set designer Jane Churchill.

Echoes Across The Century, which runs from March 31 to July 16, will promote understanding about those who experienced the First World War from behind the scenes by telling stories that provide glimpses of life through the trades, including aircraft design, saddlery, communication and food.

Working with 17 of The City's lively companies, children aged between seven and 17 from 14 schools were led by Jane to create artworks for the immersive installation at the City of London Corporation's art gallery. The exhibition, which benefited from £99,800 from the Heritage Lottery

Fund, forms part of continuing events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the First World War.

A sky full of planes and cases of paper moths act as a memorial to those who died at the Front, while apothecaries' cabinets, tobacco tins and cooks' matchboxes contain miniature worlds, and collaborative collages depict scenes from the trenches.

Jane's own installation, *Degrees Of Separation*, exploring love, loss, memory and connection, provides the inspiring starting point for the whole vision of the exhibition, as well as for the artwork she helped the children create.

Katty Pearce, City of London Corporation curator at Guildhall Art Gallery, said: "Echoes Across The Century will be a poignant and moving experience for visitors to the art gallery, essentially, a tribute to those killed or seriously injured in the First World War

also throwing light on the work of tradespeople in a wide range of, often, hidden or unusual jobs during those years."

Alison Truphet, project manager at Livery Schools Link, said: "I am thrilled with the artwork that the students have created and their enthusiasm for this project, which immerses people in behind-the-scenes stories of the First World War. Jane Churchill has brought magic to this ambitious exhibition in her own artwork, as well as the work that she has produced with more than 200 young people."

Jane said: "It has been a privilege to work with such talented students and meet amazing people during this project, which brings together more than 600 artworks to create an imaginary world – part set design, part exhibition, and part walk-through experience."

Traders' parking blow 'could kill off market'

BY GEOFF BAKER

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TRADERS at Soho's Berwick Street who are fighting council privatisation plans which could wreck its colourful character have been dealt another blow. Now they have lost their parking spaces – to developers.

Traders' leaders have warned that the move could kill the 300-year-old market.

Despite Westminster City Council raking in an extra £12 million through parking charges and fines, now it has taken the traders' traditional spaces away – forcing them to pay up to £13 an hour at nearby car parks.

A protest against the loss of vital parking has been launched by Labour councillor Paul Dimoldenberg, who has been working closely with the market traders in the fight to save their spaces.

He said: "This is another bad blow for Berwick Street Market at a time when the council's privatisation plans have caused so many problems and created so much uncertainty.

"The redevelopment works along Berwick Street have been causing problems for a



Berwick Street's colourful character



long time, reducing trade and putting off customers.

"Now the loss of parking will hit the market traders hard.

"Westminster Council is just standing by and has offered no help with parking despite making £12 million more this year and expecting the same next year.

"Surely the council could make available a few parking spaces for market traders' vans?"

"Berwick Street traders have for many years parked their

vans, which are essential to bring fruit, vegetables and other goods to the market, in the area around Kemp House and Ingestre Court.

"But now these parking places have been lost as they are needed for the redevelopment site works and Westminster council has not provided any re-

placement parking spaces for traders. This is despite the £12 million extra parking revenue."

Cllr Dimoldenberg said officers from the authority had told councillors: "There will be an estimated £12 million increase in parking income during the 2016-17 financial year when compared with 2015-16.

"Of this increase we had budgeted for a £4 million increase following changes made to how we charge for parking suspensions and increases in paid-for parking charges."

The breakdown of the increase in income is as follows:

● £5.7 million from parking suspensions;

● £3.8 million from paid-for parking charges;

● £2.4 million due to a higher-than-anticipated increase in penalty charge notices.

The council says: "While parking income has tended to be fairly volatile over the years, we are anticipating that we will maintain this level of income in 2017-18."

Traders at the market, one of the oldest in London and dating back to 1778, are already uneasy about their future as Westminster City Council wants to "privatise" the market by bringing in a commercial operator as the stallholders' landlord, following a tendering process that opened last year.

The traders have responded by launching a campaign to keep Berwick Street Market independent as they fear that as rents go up, the market will be transformed and the street will lose its distinctive identity as longstanding independent businesses are replaced by coffee bars and retail chains.

Robin Smith, owner of Soho Dairy and chairman of the Berwick Street Traders Society, said: "Street markets provide increasingly important community services.

"Our market is a vital piece of the social-economic infrastructure of Soho.

"But unfortunately councils can be slow to change and in the time it takes to fully appreciate what they are losing, it is lost.

"The loss of parking for fresh fruit and veg traders makes it impossible to operate in urban centres and could be terminal for Berwick Street Market."

The market traders are being supported by national treasure Joanna Lumley, who turned on the Berwick Street lights at Christmas.

"If we lose places like Berwick Street Market we lose the heart of London," she said.

"We lose the reason that Londoners love London and want to live here.

"And people who visit want to see the real London – not smart new glass buildings and another branch of Starbucks but a street that's been trading as a market for 300 years. That's the kind of history that people want."

Writing for you every week, London's most outspoken entrepreneur

Charlie pipes up!



LAST week the bean counters at the ONS revealed the economy continued to grow at the end of 2016. This was good news, but I have a feeling that it's not going to be all sunshine and roses over the next couple of years, which will mean that entrepreneurs will have to step up to the crease again and bat for their country.

During the last recession entrepreneurs proved their worth to the UK, with the number of private businesses rocketing as individuals threatened by or impacted by the contracting economy deciding to go it alone.

In 2016 there were 5.5 million private businesses, up 97,000 on the year before. More than 99 percent of these are SMEs and the economic backbone of the UK. What we need to do is continue to add to those numbers with more sole-traders and micro-businesses that can boost the resilience and diversity of our economy.

Being your own boss is a tempting ideal and there's a number of different reasons why you'd want to take the leap into self-employment. After all, who doesn't want to work for themselves, make their own rules and then reap the rewards when the hard work pays off?

Our nation seems to agree. A survey by FreeAgent – which provides cloud accounting software to freelancers, micro-businesses and their accountants – has revealed that one in 10 working Brits aim to start their own business within the year.

There are 31.76 million people currently working in the UK, according to ONS statistics released in December, that means 3.2 million more Brits are expected to become their own boss by 2018, despite the future financial uncertainty of the economy.

The survey also highlighted the trend in 'young-preneurs', with 67 percent, the largest percentage of the age ranges surveyed, of 18-24-year-olds planning to become their own boss at some point.

This is the sort of news we want to hear and proves how entrepreneurial this country is. Starting a business in the good times is great, but the best entrepreneurs are those that kick off their enterprise in a challenging environment and go on to achieve great success.

When I started Pimlico Plumbers in 1979 the country was at another cross roads after a decade of economic disasters, and it proved the best time to be entrepreneurial.

And, for me, it worked out, but for a lot of small firms the results aren't the same as they fail to get over the first hurdle. Around half of new businesses go to the wall in the first five years. There are, of course, many reasons for this, from bad ideas to bad management, but a lot of the time it's down to a lack of experience.

And, as an experienced new entrepreneur is a contradiction in terms, it's important that those who have been there and done it share their expertise and how they earned the scars on their backs.

A rewarding part of being a successful entrepreneur is the power to give someone help and advice. On the flip-side, going it alone doesn't mean that you can't ask for help if you need it.

I regularly get tweets, calls and messages from people who say I, or what has been achieved at Pimlico Plumbers, has inspired them in some way.

Most recently, I received possibly the most moving yet from a lady in New Zealand whose small gas and plumbing business was left on the brink after a big commercial client went under owing them hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Using Pimlico Plumbers as inspiration, the firm increased its domestic work, developed a new strategic plan, based on how I do things in the UK, and kitted staff out in new uniforms and new attitude.

Just 18 months later they are turning a profit again and getting positive reviews for their work.

I was very proud that my approach to business, and the plumbing industry, has helped another company and proves the power of entrepreneurialism can travel around the world.

I hope that as we embark on the next step of the journey into the economic unknown that other entrepreneurs can encourage new business owners towards success and help maintain the role of SMEs at the heart of British commerce.

Views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of this newspaper



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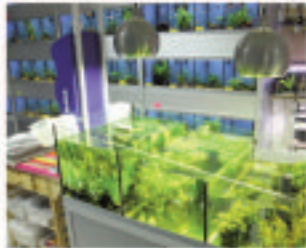
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High-profile guests at Falcons

THE Falcons School for Girls at Putney welcomed high-profile guests during its STEM – science, technology, engineering and mathematics – week.

Two STEM ambassadors – Cyril Molony, the engineer who helped to design the first MRI scanner, and Paul Winter, a highly knowledgeable brain scientist who developed a drug to treat migraines – held workshops for pupils in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6.

The head of mathematics at St Paul's School, Andrew Ashworth Jones, also visited to give pupils some brain teasers and to set them a frog-themed maths challenge. A range of other activities was also organised to engage and challenge pupils' thinking in relation to the importance of STEM.

The purpose of the week was to provide a fantastic opportunity for pupils and staff to recognise and appreciate the invaluable role that STEM has played in shaping the world we currently live in.

Activities included a trip to The Science Museum to watch an IMAX presentation of *A Beautiful Planet* in 3D.

The girls also enjoyed a workshop with the Happy Puzzle Company. They each solved complex puzzles which helped to improve their problem-solving skills and

taught them how to work effectively in a team.

During their session with the STEM ambassadors the girls became scientists for the day. Mr Molony helped the pupils think like engineers by showing them how to measure angles on circles accurately to produce some amazing Newton discs.

Mr Winter also gave the girls information about the human brain and how it works in many mysterious ways. He encouraged a career in neuroscience and gave examples of women he knows who have had remarkable success in this field.

The fantastic week was rounded off with a special STEM assembly which was run by the Year 5 pupils. Certificates were given to the girls who really shone throughout the week.

Headmistress Sophia Ashworth Jones said: "It was a wonderful week which was exceptionally informative and entertaining. The girls have been very lucky to have met such esteemed guests and have some great trips and experiences.

"They were incredibly impressive on the tasks which were set and it is essential that we ingrain the importance of STEM subjects into young girls. Hopefully some of them will be encouraged to pursue the sciences in the future."



Above, Andrew Ashworth Jones engages pupils during a maths workshop; below, pupils experiment with the puzzles from the Happy Puzzle workshop



Moped gang mount smash-and-grab raid on designer store

A MOPED gang smashed their way into a Louis Vuitton store before making off with thousands of pounds' worth of designer gear.

The suspects drove a van through the front of the store in Sloane Street, Knightsbridge, at around 1am on January 24.

They grabbed items from the store, where handbags can sell for more than £3,500, before making their getaway on mopeds.

The incident is the latest in a series of smash-and-grab raids by moped gangs on designer stores in and around Central London.

A Metropolitan Police spokesman said: "Police were informed at 12.50am last Tuesday that there was a burglary in progress at a Louis Vuitton shop. Officers attended and discovered a silver Ford Transit van had been driven into the front of the shop and left at the scene.

"A number of suspects were reported to have entered the shop and removed goods. The value of the items stolen is not known at this time."

He said no arrests have been made and inquiries are continuing.

Guide to NHS services

HEALTH bosses have published a new guide to local NHS services in a bid to help people stay fit and well.

The booklet is available for free from libraries, GP surgeries, pharmacies and community centres in Hammersmith and Fulham.

It includes tips on how to stay healthy while making the most of local services.

The guide has been published by the Hammersmith and Fulham Clinical Commissioning Group, which is responsible for planning local healthcare.

Khan: PM's policy will put future generations of Londoners in peril

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

BREXIT-MOANER Sadiq Khan has claimed that Prime Minister Theresa May's hard-line policy will wreck the future of Londoners' children's children.

The mayor of London has complained that Mrs May's hard Brexit will "rip Britain apart" and will put future generations "in peril".

Speaking at a summit in Davos, Switzerland, Mr Khan called on businesses and organisations across Europe to make the case to their political leaders for a Brexit deal that works for both the UK and the EU.

"On his first visit to the World Economic Forum, Sadiq took his message to the world's top business leaders and politicians that London remains open for business and a key destination for investment, despite the referendum result," said the mayor's spokesman.

During his visit, the gregarious mayor met with King Philippe of Belgium, the Prime Minister of Sweden, the Prime Minister of Norway, the chief executive of Siemens, and the president and chief executive of Hitachi to discuss global investment opportunities for London.

Banging his drum for London, the mayor said: "I'm confident that London will remain as Europe's leading business hub. London is, and will always continue to be, open.

"Despite Brexit, London will always remain a European city – the cultural, social and economic capital of Europe."

On the prospect of leaving the single market, Mr Khan said: "Securing privileged access to the single market must be the top priority for the negotiations.

"It's critical for London. Nothing else will do. It can't be brushed aside.

"A hard-line approach to Brexit could rip Britain apart.

"And if we continue on this path – towards a 'Hard Brexit' – we risk having to explain to future generations why we knowingly put their economy, their prosperity and their place on the world stage in such peril."

On calling on businesses and organisations across Europe to make the case to their political leaders for a workable Brexit deal, he said: "A 'Hard Brexit' would cut Europe off from its only truly global financial centre. This would be bad news for Europe as well as Britain. So a

'Hard Brexit' really would be a lose-lose situation.

"Tell your political leaders that a 'Hard Brexit' deal is not in the best interests of your company. This won't be easy. But I'm confident that despite the Prime Minister's rhetoric, there is still a sensible deal to be done."

Warning Europe about the consequences of people across the world feeling left behind or sidelined, he said: "Many people who voted to leave the EU did so because of unease about the change they've experienced in recent decades.

"This economic and social divide is not unique to Britain. We see it in the growing strength of populism. And without a concerted response it will spread further.

"My warning is this: if many of your countries held an EU referendum tomorrow, it could go the same way as ours. This is an existential threat to the EU – that we must combat together.

"One of the most crucial tasks for us now is to take proactive steps to build stronger and more integrated communities – and to ensure that everyone benefits from our globalized economy.

"The alternative is division, protectionism and isolationism."

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Points of view

Have
your say

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OPINION

If there is one issue that dominates the pages of the *London Weekly News* more than any other, it is the capital's toxic air.

Every week, it seems, we report on yet more shocking statistics about the poisonous smog we are all unwittingly sucking up on a daily basis. And we make no apology for tackling the subject once again in today's edition.

As he approaches the end of his first year in office, Sadiq Khan has on several issues failed to live up to the bluster of his own election rhetoric. But on the topic of air quality, his efforts should be applauded.

The announcement last week that experts will carry out 'air quality audits' at 50 of London's most polluted schools – where nitrogen dioxide levels vastly exceed legal limits – is a welcome step towards protecting our children from the so-called silent killer.

Such is the urgency of the crisis gripping our city, we all want to find the perfect solution immediately.

We should recognise, however, that cleaning up the capital's filthy air is not a problem that one mayor can solve with the swish of a pen.

It requires legislative direction from a government committed to the cause, including further devolution of powers for London to go above and beyond other parts of the country to confront the beast in our own back yard.

More than anything else, though, detoxifying our dirty air – and, for that matter, facing up to the worldwide environmental apocalypse – demands a massive cultural shift in the way we all go about our daily lives. We have gone past the point where it is enough to simply recycle the odd beer can here and there or even to vote for the political party that makes the best case for going green.

It is up to each and every one of us to show that we care about our air and condemn our indulgent and destructive ways to the history books.

Bowel cancer

EVERY day I speak to patients and their families and see the pain, fear and struggle they go through when a bowel cancer diagnosis strikes. That's why I'm encouraging your readers to show their support for World Cancer Day on Saturday February 4.

Bowel Cancer UK is working with nine other cancer charities to unite everyone in a simple but powerful life changing act – wearing a Unity Band on Saturday February 4. By joining forces we will make a bigger impact in transforming the lives of millions who are affected by cancer.

The Unity Band is made of two parts, knotted together, to represent strength in unity and the power of what can be achieved when people join forces.

You can get an exclusive Bowel Cancer UK Unity Band on our online shop for a suggested donation of £2 – so please visit the website www.bowelcanceruk.org.uk/shop

More than 44 people die from bowel cancer every day in the UK, it's the nation's second biggest cancer killer.

However, it shouldn't be. It's treatable and curable, especially if diagnosed early. Your readers' support will help us ensure more people have the chance of an early diagnosis.

Deborah Alsina MBE
Chief Executive, Bowel Cancer UK



The RSPCA is starting to see the effects of soaring demand for a number of 'designer' breeds, such as pugs, pictured above, and French bulldogs

Digital inclusion

ONLINE. Digital inclusion. What's that? Let's face it, the world evolves through technology. Actually the human race evolves through technology.

Colour TV, radar, Bob Dylan plugging in his electric guitar, the internal combustion engine. It is technology which changes our lives and how we live, not brotherly love and higher consciousness. I wish it were.

We address, refine, tackle and undertake the tasks of our lives with the technology we have. And modern technology is about the internet and its world of computers, tablets and smartphones.

The significance of the internet is such that people now ask, what did we do before the computer or the mobile phone? How did we meet up? Organize our lives? Buy a winter coat whilst sitting at home in our bedroom slippers having a cup of tea?

Put simply, if you had invested in a little Californian company called Facebook in 2010 you would probably be driving a jet black Lamborghini on your way for lunch at Claridges today.

We are the same as our forebears. We love, want company, meaningful work, health and somewhere decent to live – what separates us from the past is how we do things and bring order to our lives.

Now people are either able to go online or not, and although the computer is far from some form of Eden its practical implications are vast for filling in forms, renewing licences, banking and shopping, as well as sending emails, photos and video clips, and making free phone calls.

There is, in short, a

divide or separation in who can do this and the desire to teach more people to do so is called "digital inclusion".

The council and the Government recognise its worth and there is talk of 'hubs' where lessons and access to the internet can be found being put in place across the borough. Help is proactively out there and it is free and given by informed experienced willing people.

Age UK Hammersmith and Fulham, like others, already offer computer lessons with tutors and there are classes elsewhere in libraries and community centres.

If like many people of a certain age you feel the computer world is mumbo jumbo – a nonsense which requires you to need a PhD or even a gimmick – it might be worth at least opening the door ajar and peering in. You will find that you achieve a harmony with the modern world which is rewarding and even exciting.

Age UK Hammersmith and Fulham offers one-to-one tuition from Monday to Friday between 10am and 2pm at its centre at 105 Greyhound Road, W6.

Please call 0207 386 9085 to book an appointment. Its basic five-week courses in computer use will start in March. Contact Peter to put your name forward 0207 386 2657.

Peter Thellusson
Service Co-ordinator,
Age UK Hammersmith and Fulham

Designer dogs

THE RSPCA is starting to see the effects of soaring demand for a number of 'designer' breeds, such as pugs and French bulldogs.

In 2016 alone, the RSPCA rescued a number of these

dogs who had been abandoned, seemingly unwanted.

We were called late at night on March 18 after a member of the public found a pug collapsed in a blanket in the street in north west London.

The poor dog, Petunia, who was found curled up in a blanket where she'd been dumped, was rushed to Putney Animal Hospital with an infected, ulcerated eye and severe ear infections. She was treated but a week later vets made the difficult decision to put her to sleep to end her suffering.

Petunia was scanned and found to have an Irish Kennel Club microchip, which was not registered so an owner could not be traced.

There is huge demand for certain breeds of dogs that have been popularised and glamorised by celebrities, social media and popular culture.

We are seeing a huge increase in the number of people buying pugs and French bulldogs and now the RSPCA is starting to see that trend first-hand.

Unfortunately, as responsible and reputable breeders of these types of dogs cannot keep up with demand, underground breeders and traders are filling the gap in the market and are offering buyers the chance to buy puppies at cheaper prices and without waiting lists – often with disastrous consequences.

This is the price of poor puppy breeding – consumers faced with sick and dying puppies who need expensive veterinary treatment or lifelong behavioural support; a surge in these breeds coming into the care of rescue centres and charities from people who did not do their research before taking on a dog that

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your letters and emails

requires a lot of time and commitment; and an increase in the number of these breeds being abandoned either because, as puppies, they didn't sell or became poorly, or as breeding stock they couldn't produce litters anymore.

Once again, organisations such as the RSPCA are left picking up the pieces, and the animals are paying the ultimate price – often with their lives.

Ian Briggs
RSPCA Chief Inspector

Rough sleeping

THE latest government statistics on rough sleeping make stark reading, particularly the huge increase in the number of rough sleepers in the last five years.

Now is the time for the Government to act – this worsening situation simply cannot be allowed to continue.

London Councils has made clear that the pledge to fully fund a new homelessness reduction bill must be properly reviewed – costings must not be based on estimates and guesswork.

The capital continues to account for a huge percentage of the homelessness total across England.

The particular and unique pressures facing London – a spiralling housing crisis coupled with the dramatic impact of welfare reform on our poorest communities – must also be addressed.

Sir Steve Bullock
London Councils executive member for housing

Dangerous trucks

LORRIES and heavy goods vehicles are disproportionately involved in the serious injury and deaths of people walking and cycling in London.

These tragic, preventable road deaths and injuries are devastating families across London and the world.

It is blindingly obvious that drivers must be able to see other road users and the latest research confirms how unfair it is on lorry drivers to be manoeuvring heavy vehicles that do not allow them to see the people in the streets around them.

I urge the Mayor to bring forward his star rating for HGVs before the proposed date of 2020. We cannot wait three more years before killer lorries are taken off our roads.

We already know what a dangerous



Lorries and heavy goods vehicles are disproportionately involved in the serious injury and deaths of people walking and cycling in London, writes Assembly Member Caroline Russell in this week's letters section

lorry looks like, why not bring forward the removal of the 35,000 zero star-rated 'off-road' HGVs operating in London, potentially saving many lives and preventing serious and life-changing injuries?

Caroline Russell AM
London Assembly Member, Green Party

Tumble dryers

LAST August a fire ripped through Shepherd's Court in Shepherd's Bush, an 18-storey block of flats overlooking Shepherd's Bush Green. 26 families were moved out owing to fire and water damage; four lost most of their possessions.

Luckily nobody was badly hurt, but the London Fire Brigade said it could have been much worse in

terms of injury and even loss of life.

We now know that the easily preventable cause was a faulty Whirlpool tumble dryer.

Following the fire I launched a petition calling on the Government to urge Whirlpool UK to change their safety advice to consumers, as recommended by the London Fire Brigade, and to implement a full product recall of the faulty machines.

In the meantime I want Whirlpool to stop telling people they can use the dryers.

I hope my petition will raise awareness of this issue, as many of the five million owners of these dryers don't know they are dangerous, and put pressure on the Government and Whirlpool to take appropriate action.

Depending on how many people sign, we can force the Government to respond or get a debate in Parliament. Please make sure you sign the petition now.

Andy Slaughter
Hammersmith MP

Andy Slaughter MP
launched a petition calling on the Government to urge Whirlpool UK to change their safety advice to consumers



Pay inequality

HERE in the UK, wages have fallen by more than 10.4 per cent over the last six years; men's have dropped by a staggering 12 per cent, with women's falling by even per cent.

However, it is young workers who have seen the biggest decline, with those between 18 and 24 years of age suffering a whopping 16 per cent drop in pay.

To put this in perspective, the collapse in UK wages is equalled only by Greece. The only reason that family income hasn't felt the full impact is mainly due to in-work benefits and some slight tax alterations, which have gone some way towards softening the blow to a drop of around seven per cent.

Not all of us have taken the pain, though. The average UK wage is now £26,500, but the top CEO wage is £4.3 million, making the UK the most unequal society in the, whilst our public services and NHS are stripped to the bone.

Ian Hodson
President, Bakers Food and Allied Workers Union

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Heart-transplant pioneer to give lecture for charity

PIONEERING and celebrated surgeon Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub, *pictured*, reflects on his time saving lives at Harefield Hospital when he gives a special lecture in Kensington in March. Proceeds from the lecture will go to the Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals Charity and the Harefield Heart Science Centre.

Sir Magdi established heart transplantation in the UK through the Harefield transplantation programme, and pioneered several transformative techniques in the field. In 1983, the UK's first combined heart and lung transplant was performed under his direction. Another of his remarkable achievements was establishing the Ross Procedure, a heart operation whereby a diseased aortic valve is replaced with the patient's own pulmonary valve. One of Sir Magdi's many patients is Angela Boyle, of Nuneaton. Angela was born in



Eastcote in 1974 with her great arteries the wrong way round. When Angela was just months old, Sir Magdi performed lifesaving corrective surgery on her heart. The operation was a great success and appeared on the front page of the *Daily Express*. Angela said: "I'm eternally grateful to Sir Magdi and all the staff at Harefield, and so is my husband. I think that, put sim-

ply, without that operation in July 1974, I wouldn't be here. "The words 'thank you' aren't enough – we need more brilliant, caring doctors like Sir Magdi." Sir Magdi was knighted in 1992 and was awarded the prestigious Order of Merit in 2014. Previous recipients of this award have included Mother Theresa and Nelson Mandela. The award, which is held by only 24 people at any one time, recognises Sir Magdi's lifelong dedication to heart surgery and all he has done to make it more accessible. He says of Harefield Hospital: "It is such a unique, inspirational place with a special place in the hearts of its patients and staff." The lecture in on March 2 (6pm) at The Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, SW7 2AR. Tickets (£25) are available at eventbrite.co.uk/e/professor-sir-magdi-yacoub-celebrating-patients-research-at-harefield-hospital-tickets-28722419530.



London's Gerrard Street during a previous Chinese New Year – and one of the limited-edition packs of cereal



Tourism boost and limited-edition 'cock flakes' for Year of Rooster

COCK-A-DOODLE-DO! The Chinese are coming to London in record numbers. Travel experts are predicting a 40 per cent rise in visitors from mainland China this year. And as the capital's Chinese community celebrates the start of its New Year, now Kellogg's Corn Flakes is offering Londoners to win rare special-edition boxes of Kellogg's 'Cock Flakes'. To crow in the Chinese New Year the famous cereal company has given its farmyard favourite Cornelius an oriental makeover, appearing on

a range of limited-edition packs of the corn flakes. Welcoming the Year of the Rooster, Kellogg's is offering the chance for cereal lovers to win one of just 50 special packs that will be unavailable for purchase in stores. For the chance to get their hands on one of these special-edition boxes, fans have been invited to create their very own zhezhi cockerel and share their efforts online for a chance to win. The zhezhi challenge – the Chinese art of paper folding – encourages fans to share their origami rooster on the competi-

tion post on Kellogg's Official UK Facebook #myperfectbowl. The Chinese New Year began on Saturday and it promises to be a great one for the tills of the capital as Forward Keys, the company that predicts the number of overseas travel-agent bookings to London, forecasts that in the first three months of 2017 bookings from American tourists will go up by 25 per cent and up 40 per cent from China, when compared to the same period in 2016.

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Make yourself at home
We offer quality care in a comfortable, warm, and welcoming environment at Ellesmere House. The building itself has many stylish and distinctive design features and all our bedrooms are beautifully decorated, spacious and designed to the highest standards. Our newly optimised suite also features its very own cinema and hair salon, which is available for all residents to use.



Keep active and have fun
Helping residents stay active and independent is at the heart of everything we do at Ellesmere House. Our philosophy of Activity Based Care encourages residents to remain active, however everyone can choose to join in or take a break as they like.



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Daughter of resident - December 2016

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Football clubs are told to play fair on staff

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

PENNY-PINCHING London football clubs have been written to by the mayor, telling them “it’s not right” that they are not paying their staff a fair wage.

Sadiq Khan has called on the capital’s Premier League football clubs to join him “in working to make London a Living Wage city”.

The mayor has written to the chairmen and owners of Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur, West Ham United and Crystal Palace, urging them to set an example for other businesses across the capital by paying their staff the London Living Wage.

“Only Chelsea – who signed up in 2014 – pay their employees the London Living Wage and Sadiq is calling on other London-based Premier League clubs to join the Blues and the other 1,076 businesses that are accredited,” said the mayor’s spokesman.

“This figure is up from 724 the previous year and compares with just 27 employers who publicly backed the Living Wage in 2008.”

The mayor announced in October last year an increase in the London Living Wage from £9.40 to £9.75.

“He believes the Living Wage can be a win-win for business as it can help recruitment, retention and productivity of

staff, and makes good commercial sense,” said his spokesman.

“More than 60,000 workers in the city now benefit from the increased wage. And while the capital accounts for more than a third of businesses paying the Living Wage in the UK, Sadiq believes London’s Premier League clubs can help it go further and set an example for other employers to follow.”

Mr Khan said: “London is the best city in the world but it can’t be right that so many hard-working Londoners are struggling to make ends meet and keep up with the high cost of living.

“As the mayor for all Londoners, I am determined we create a city of opportunity for everyone, and the London Living Wage is a crucial part of challenging low pay in the capital. My vision is to make London a Living Wage city and that is why I am calling on our great city’s Premier League clubs to join me in making that reality.

“The likes of Arsenal, Spurs, West Ham and Crystal Palace are not only top football clubs but leading employers in London. I’m calling on them to sign up and pay their staff the increased rate.

“It’s a win-win situation: they can improve staff recruitment, retention and productivity, while helping me promote the London Living Wage across the city.”

Katherine Chapman, director at the Living Wage Foundation, said: “We would

love to see more Premier League football clubs join Chelsea in paying a real Living Wage.

“There are almost 3,000 employers signed up across the UK who pay the real Living Wage – a third of these in London – because they want to reward a fair day’s work with a fair day’s pay.

“Living Wage employers report better recruitment, retention and productivity – so not only is it good for families, it’s good for business and good for London.”

After discovering sub-contractors hired under the former mayor were paid less than the London Living Wage, Mr Khan recently took action to ensure all staff and sub-contractors working within the Greater London Authority and its functional bodies are paid the increased capital rate of £9.75 an hour.

More than 300 additional employers signed up to pay their staff the capital’s hourly rate over the last 12 months.

Since 2011 the London Living Wage has increased by 17.5 per cent.

And over the last year, major brands – including the British Library, IKEA, Majestic Wine, Lloyds TSB and London’s Borough Market – have all become accredited as London Living Wage employers.

New airbag geared to save lives of city cyclists

THE world’s first airbag for cyclists has come to London and is set to save lives and prevent injuries.

The Swedish invention Hovding could dramatically reduce casualties, which annually run into hundreds across the capital with its 610,000 daily cyclists.

Safety researchers say the gadget is eight times safer than a normal cycling helmet.

As more than 400 cyclists are seriously injured or killed on the roads each year, bike shops across the city are clamouring to stock the new safety gear, which is worn like a scarf and which inflates in an accident to give cyclists crucial protection to the head and neck.

“Hovding is the world’s first airbag for cyclists and is the result of intensive research since 2005,” said a spokesman for the inventors.

“Through advanced sensors, Hovding can sense the cyclist’s movement patterns and will react in case of an accident. The unique airbag will then inflate, fixate your neck and provide the world’s best shock absorption.

“The airbag is designed like a hood and made in an



ultra-strong nylon fabric that won’t rip when scraped against the ground.

“The protection is greatest where it is needed most and the airbag provides extremely soft and gentle shock absorption.

“The pressure remains constant for several seconds, making it able to withstand multiple head impacts during the same accident.

“Researchers at Stanford University found in a study that the thickness and stiffness of the Hovding helmet is ‘near perfect’ in terms of protecting against concussion and head injuries caused by accidents.

“They concluded that there is an eight-fold reduction in the risk of concussion with the Hovding airbag compared to traditional helmets.”

What’s a typical day at Ellesmere House? Catching up over afternoon tea



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Beatles back in Chelsea for 50th

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE Beatles are returning to Chelsea as part of a "Peppermania" which is also set to sweep the capital as the world's most-popular band celebrates "it was 50 years ago today".

Ahead of the 50th anniversary of the release of the *Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* album and growing speculation that Sir Paul McCartney will mark the birthday with a one-off London gig, a new exhibition of rare photographs of The Beatles from that period is to open in March on the site where they used to get their hair cut.

Proud Galleries at 161 King's Road is to present *The Beatles Unseen: Photographs by David Magnus*, described as "a moving documentation of the legendary band's phenomenal ascent by photographer David Magnus, who bore witness to some of their greatest moments".

The gallery adds: "This exhibition, featuring many previously unseen photographs, is a fascinating and deeply candid insight into The Beatles during a historic occasion taken at the world-famous EMI Studio 1 in Abbey Road."

Proud Galleries now occupies the Chelsea site which in 1966 was Dandie Fashions, the boutique often frequented by The Beatles.

The boutique was launched by fashion entrepreneurs Freddie Hornik and Alan Holston with Guinness heir Tara Browne, the socialite who died in a car accident in South Kensington and was thought to have inspired John Lennon



The Beatles by David Magnus

on the song *A Day In The Life* at the end of the *Sgt Pepper* album.

The Beatles later invested in Dandie Fashions, renaming it Apple Tailoring. The premises also featured a hairdressing salon when the band would go to get their mops topped.

Beatles biographers say the band were attracted to the King's Road by the presence of the clothing boutiques Dandie, along with Granny Takes A Trip and Hung On You. Apple Tailoring opened at 161 King's Road on 23 May 1968, with "fifth Beatle", Apple Corps chief Neil Aspinall,



Will Sir Paul stage a *Sgt Pepper* anniversary gig?

becoming a director and John Lennon and George Harrison attending the launch party.

Now, as this year marks the 50th anniversary of the release of *Sgt Pepper*, the Proud Galleries' Magnus exhibition, which opens on March 16, will bring the band back to Chelsea, where the album's famous cover was photographed at Michael Cooper's Chelsea Manor Studios, just off the King's Road in Flood Street.

"In 1963, at the age of 19, Magnus was invited to photograph The Beatles during a concert at Stowe School. This early work with the group allowed Magnus unprecedented access throughout their rise to fame, forming an illustrious portfolio encompassing many rare and unique images," said a Proud spokesman.

"Magnus' close relationship with the band and their publicist, Tony Barrow, granted him exclusive access to record a pivotal moment in their career 50 years ago, when, on the weekend of June 24 and 25 1967, The Beatles recorded their song *All You Need Is Love* for the first time during a live broadcast for the BBC's *Our World*, the world's first live, international, satellite television production, which reached more than 400 million people worldwide.

"Magnus documented rare, behind-the-scenes footage of this historic event, including wonderfully frank photographs of the band relaxing backstage away from the recording studio."

Speaking of the intensity of the band's influence during that time, Magnus said: "As I came from the EMI canteen, one of the female studio staff stopped me, put a hand on my shoulder and said to me 'I must touch you as you've been in the same room as The Beatles.'"

"It was as if I carried an aura from The Beatles. This to me sums up Beatlemania."

The Proud spokesman said: "This collection is a captivating archive of an event that was not only a first for The Beatles but a first for the era of television, which ignited a social revolution and created the universal anthem of its era."

"Proud Chelsea will showcase a rare and remarkable collection of this unique photographic session, revealing the close bond between photographer and subject. Magnus' extensive archive from this inimitable occasion highlights the band's domineering presence and influence within the music industry while reflecting the recognition, admiration and excitement that sparked the world over across the last five decades."

The exhibition is just one of many Beatles events and launches expected to mark in London the anniversary of what is widely considered to be rock's most-seminal and most-famous album, which was released on June 1 1967 as the highlight of the Summer of Love.

Fans are hoping that Sir Paul is set to announce a special *Sgt Pepper At 50* concert at the O2 for June. Although The Beatles never performed any of the album's songs live as a band, since his resurgence on the rock stage in the 1990s, Sir Paul has performed in concert many tracks written for the album, including *She's Leaving Home*, *Lovely Rita*, *With A Little Help*

From My Friends, *Fixing A Hole*, *Being For The Benefit Of Mr Kite*, *Getting Better*, *Penny Lane*, *Strawberry Fields Forever* and a seven-minute version of the album's title track which is widely reckoned to be the former Beatle's most rocked-up performance.

In Kensington, a *Sgt Pepper* commemorative concert at the Royal Albert Hall on June 1 has already sold out. The gig will star the copycat band The Bootleg Beatles performing the entire album accompanied by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

EMI's studios at Abbey Road, where the legendary album was recorded, is also expected to stage a star-studded playback of a new, remastered 50th-anniversary edition of *Sgt Pepper*, which fans believe could now feature bonus tracks of *Penny Lane* and *Strawberry Fields Forever*, the songs which were originally intended for the Sixties LP but did not feature as the record company wanted them for a single and The Beatles did not at the time include singles on their albums. It is not yet known whether the two surviving Beatles, Sir Paul and Ringo Starr, will attend the event.

Meanwhile, Apple Corps, the Beatles company headquarters near Harrods, is believed to be masterminding a deluge of commemorative releases, including a previously unseen *The Making Of Sgt Pepper* film which is likely to be aired on the BBC before being released on DVD. Apple is also planning to produce a vast range of new *Sgt Pepper* merchandise including guitar straps, mugs, watches, calendars, badges, iPhone covers, wallets, bracelets and toys.

A West End premiere is expected for a new Beatles film marking the 50th anniversary. *It Was Fifty Years Ago Today... Sgt Pepper And Beyond* is now in post-production in time for June.

The film picks up on The Beatles as they end their gruelling tour schedule in August 1966 – coincidentally following on from Ron Howard's recent Beatles documentary *Eight Days A Week* – to return to Abbey Road to record the landmark album.

Insiders say the film "will journey through various solo projects to the release of *Strawberry Fields Forever*/Penny Lane, touching on flower power, John Lennon meeting Yoko Ono, LSD, meditation and Jimi Hendrix performing the album's title track at The Saville Theatre just days after its release."

"We're combining first-hand accounts of the events that allowed *Sgt Pepper* to happen with rare and unseen footage that we've forensically unearthed from mainstream archives and private collectors. The last days of touring, the execution of the album and the aftermath that it left behind will, I hope, give the audience an intimate sense of the band, the time and the impact of this extraordinary album," said director Alan G Parker.

Among the interviewees featured in the film are Hunter Davies (the band's official biographer), Pete Best (the band's original drummer) and music manager Simon Napier-Bell.

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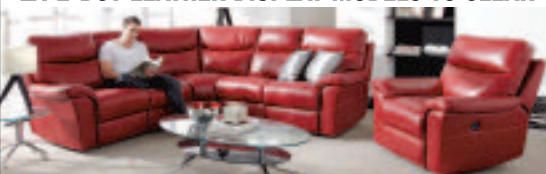


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Council warning after builder is fined over noise

A BUILDER who ignored the council's code of construction practice and carried on working on two Saturdays and a bank-holiday Monday has been fined.

Duclei Ferreira pleaded guilty on behalf of himself and his company to three charges of breaching a notice served under Section 60 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974.

The notice was intended to control the hours when noisy work could be carried out on a site in Campden Hill Gardens, W8, which was undergoing conversion and refurbishment.

When he appeared before Westminster magistrates, Ferreira, of NW6, was fined a total of £900 for breaching the notice and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £170.

His company, Duclei Contractors Ltd of Matrix Road,

NW6, was fined a total of £3,000 and ordered to pay a £170 surcharge.

In addition, Ferreira was ordered to pay costs of £1,257.75.

In court, Ferreira apologised through an interpreter for the offences and, in mitigation, explained that problems arose because he had employed someone who had let him down.

The court heard that Kensington and Chelsea's noise and nuisance officers acted after receiving complaints from residents and had first tried to resolve the issue with advice and warnings before serving the Section 60 notice.

However, noisy building works were again witnessed on a bank holiday in May and two Saturdays, one in May and one in July.

"We warned and we advised," said Cllr Tim Ahern,

Kensington and Chelsea's cabinet member for environmental health, "but the out-of-hours working continued so Mr Ferreira only has himself to blame for becoming the first to be prosecuted under our new regime.

"I hope the message now goes out to contractors that ignoring our code of construction practice will have consequences."

Introduced in April, the code means that a tough construction-noise regime now operates in Kensington and Chelsea.

The generally permitted hours for noisy works no longer include any time on a Saturday. As before, work is not allowed on Sundays.

The code also includes a further set of restricted hours for high-impact activities such as demolition and concrete breaking.



Selfie mania has taken a grip in London and across the world with members of the public grabbing a snap with famous people including Prince Harry, Prime Minister Theresa May, the Queen and the Pope

Gallery's bid to find world's top selfie

EVERYBODY'S at it – rock stars, movie idols, world leaders and even royalty are joining the selfie craze.

But now you can win a worldwide competition for the best.

Chelsea's Saatchi Gallery has launched a competition to find the greatest selfies ever snapped.

The gallery has launched #SaatchiSelfie to capture the most eye-boggling of the images that pepper Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and every other corner of the modern world.

The 10 best selfies will be exhibited at the prestigious art hall after the competition closes on March 12.

The competition is open to anyone aged over 16 and the 10 shortlisted winners will also receive Huawei's newest smartphone.



Actress Angelina Jolie is also a fan of the selfie phenomenon

The overall winner will receive what the gallery is describing as "a priceless photographic experience, to be announced at a later date".

Royal borough pupils capital's best

IT'S official – pupils at schools in Kensington and Chelsea are top of the class of all of London.

Pupils at schools in the royal borough have achieved the best GCSE results in the capital, according to final performance figures released by the Department for Education.

In total, 76 per cent of pupils in the borough's secondary schools achieved GCSE grades A* to C in English and mathematics, the best result in London and fourth-best nationally.

The national average for

maintained schools was 63 per cent and the average for inner London was 65 per cent.

The borough is also ranked as one of the best nationally and in London for Progress 8 and Attainment 8 scores.

Progress 8 measures a score against what was the expected attainment of the pupils compared with their prior attainment at primary school.

Attainment 8 is the pupils' average achievement across these eight subjects: English, mathematics, three other English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

subjects (sciences, computer science, geography, history and languages) and three further subjects, which can be from the range of EBacc subjects, or can be any other GCSE or approved high-value arts, academic or vocational qualification.

Cllr Emma Will, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's cabinet member for education, said: "We are well known for the high standards in our schools and these tables confirm this.

"Results like this reflect the tremendous amount of hard work by teachers and pupils."

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‘Customers to blame’ for HSBC branch’s impending closure

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE Brompton Road branch of HSBC is to close – with bankers blaming their customers for it shutting down.

The Knightsbridge branch is one of 62 that are to be closed by the bank which made £7.6 billion in pre-tax profits in the first six months of last year.

HSBC will shut the Brompton Road branch on December 1.

The bank, which this month announced that it is planning to move “about 1,000” of its 5,000 London staff to Paris when Britain leaves the EU, said the closure “reflects a change in the way local customers are banking”.

A spokesman said: “The decision to close the branch is part of a wider HSBC announcement to close 62 branches by the end of 2017. HSBC has no intention to close any further branches in 2017 and this marks the end of its branch restructuring programme.”

Francesca McDonagh, HSBC’s head of retail banking and wealth management for UK and Europe, said: “The way our cus-



The HSBC branch on Brompton Road

tomers bank with us is changing. More customers are using mobile and internet banking than ever before, innovation such as Touch and Voice ID has proved extremely popular, and fewer people are using branches. More than 90 per cent of our interactions with customers are now through our digital channels – an increase from 80 per cent last year.

“The decision to close these branches ensures a more sustainable branch network for the future as we continue to invest in our digital platforms and our people. We will have fewer but better branches, with more empowered frontline colleagues using a greater range of technology to support all our customers’ needs.”

HSBC is now contacting its customers

in a bid to persuade them not to switch accounts to banks that are maintaining local branches in Knightsbridge.

“Our priority now is to work with our colleagues, our customers and the communities impacted by the announcement. We are contacting customers to explain the decision and help them with alternative ways to bank with us,” said the spokesman. We will offer customers individual sessions to help explain their options or provide help in setting up telephone, mobile or internet banking.”

Over the past five years, the number of customers using HSBC branches has fallen by almost 40 per cent.

More than 93 per cent of customers’ contact with the bank is now completed via the telephone, internet or smartphone and 97 per cent of cash withdrawals are made via an ATM.

“In order to best support customers, HSBC is putting a number of measures in place to help, and already has a partnership with the Post Office so customers can continue to carry out their day-to-day banking in all 11,600 Post Office locations,” said the spokesman.

£107k boost for project aiming to break cycle of reoffending

THE City of London Corporation’s charitable funder, City Bridge Trust, has awarded a grant of £107,114 to the Upper Room to support its UR4Driving project which aims to break the cycle of reoffending and long-term unemployment among former prisoners.

The Upper Room, which is based in Shepherd’s Bush, works with socially and economically disadvantaged people from some of the most deprived areas of London. The UR4Driving project teaches ex-offenders to drive in return for undertaking 80 hours of personal development and employability workshops.

“The project’s overall aim is to break the cycle of reoffending and long-term unemployment among ex-offenders by giving them the motivation and employability skills necessary to secure and sustain employment. This assists their reintegration into society and helps them to turn their back on crime,” said a spokesman.

Since 2010, 147 ex-offenders have obtained a driving licence. Approximately half have either found work or entered into further education within nine months of completing the programme.

Alison Gowman, chairman of the City of London Corporation’s City Bridge Trust Committee, said: “We are pleased to be able to support an organisation that’s changing so many lives across London. Since the charity began in 1990 it has grown hugely and

developed into an organisation that is providing vital services to many ex-offenders Londonwide.

“Its projects – UR4Meals, UR4Jobs, and UR4Driving – are helping to offer life-changing services that have helped many break out of the cycle of reoffending. It is great that we are able to help such a worthwhile charity through City Bridge Trust”.

Michael Buraimoh, operations director at the Upper Room, said: “We are delighted to have been awarded a three-year grant for our UR4Driving project. UR4Driving improves the employability of ex-offenders by giving them the motivation and practical skills necessary to find employment and thus break the cycle of reoffending and long-term unemployment.

“The grant will part-fund salary costs on the project as well as contribute towards the running costs. Apart from helping us provide ex-offenders with the opportunity to turn their lives around, the City Bridge Trust grant will also help us to deliver indirect social outcomes to the wider society through fewer victims of crime.

“The Upper Room is an organisation committed to improving the lives of ex-offenders.

“Our projects focus on giving socially and economically disadvantaged people the tools or skills they need to improve their lives and build positive futures.”

COMPETITION

London Weekly News

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Olympia Historic will also play host to a raft of unique and exciting features such as The Fine Watch Room, The Whisky Exchange Masterclasses and The Classic Car Rally Talk Theatre, plus The Restoration Showcase supported by leading Ferrari restorer Barkaways and Mercedes Benz restoration specialist, Hilton and Moss. Alongside the Fair, the Auction will see more than 100 fine historic automobiles go under the hammer with Coys.

London Weekly News has 10 pairs of tickets to the event. For your chance to win simply answer the competition question, complete your details on the entry form provided and send it to: OLYMPIA HISTORIC FAIR competition, London Weekly News, 6th Floor, Yeoman House, 63 Croydon Road, Penge SE20 7TS. Closing date for entries: Tuesday 7 February, 2017.

ENTRY FORM

Q. What is the name of the Masterclass that will be featured at the event?

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T&Cs. Terms & Conditions: Ten readers will win a pair of tickets to see the event, subject to availability. No cash alternative. Travel and accommodation not included. Usual London Weekly News competition rules apply.

Slighting a royal is the worst publicity possible

LWN news editor

Geoff Baker hits out at BAFTA for its reported treatment of the Duchess of Cambridge



According to reports which sound likely to be have been accurate, certain members of BAFTA told Prince William that they would prefer it if he didn't bring the world's most popular glamorous woman to its prize-giving bash next month.

Reportedly, there were fears backstage at Britain's prize-giving for film and TV distinction that if William arrived with the Duchess of Cambridge on his arm then that could detract from the stars getting the spotlight for the cameras.

Many of us hoped that in response William would phone up BAFTA and ask for not only a plus-one ticket but a whole book of tickets, and arrive not only with Kate but also with Prince George, Princess Charlotte, his Dad and mother-in-law, his granny and grandad, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle and a brace of corgis.

In fact, if I was Prince William I would turn up with the entire Household Cavalry too – just to stick it to them.

And I'd ask my brother to announce his engagement live on stage when the event at the Royal Albert Hall is screened on BBC1 on February 12, and see how BAFTA likes that for headline-grabbing.

Of course the Duchess of Cambridge will grab all of the photographers' attention when she goes, as it has now been announced that she will, she is massively more popular than any mere actor. Of course her presence will mean less space in the next day's newspapers for pictures of this or that star or starlet almost wearing a dress that some designer has lent them for free.

I indeed, I very much hope that Kate attends wearing some sort of frock like the one that the publicity-hunting Salma Hayek wore to the Cannes Film Festival.

But I do not believe that BAFTA chief Amanda Berry nor any of her board were behind this claim of a petulant and idiot idea which would accomplish nothing other than for BAFTA to shoot itself in the foot.

I suspect that publicists may have been behind this allegation and that the whole row was about money.

Whilst the BAFTA awards may aspire to be a glittering occasion at which the movie and TV industries celebrate their finest, what it is in actuality is a massive stunt for free publicity.

Through BAFTA, the movie business gets to effortlessly promote its big films. And instead of having to pay a huge promotional budget to do,



The Duchess of Cambridge – a true glamour queen

BAFTA provides that for free. Not only for free, free at the expense of the British public, who pay the BBC licence fee.

I know how some publicists think, I've dealt with them as I used to be Sir Paul McCartney's PR for 15 years and I repped The Beatles for nine, I'm more than familiar with the tricks, smoke and mirrors of this questionably-responsible trade.

So BATFA represents a godsend opportunity if you are publicising a film. All you have to do is to get your stars to turn up on the red carpet wearing something that their mothers wouldn't let them go out in at night and the paparazzi will do the rest. If your film happens to win a gong, so much the better as it will mean more pictures of your artist in the paper the next day.

But newspapers and TV only have so much space to dedicate to any occasion and so if Kate is present then, obviously, it's going to be her on the front page the next morning and not your star. Beyond this denting the ego of your star, there is more at stake; the more publicity you can get

for your movie, the more promotion it receives, the more people go to see it and the more money the film studio makes.

Clearly then, the presence of the dazzling Kate could cost you money as she – and not your artist – gets the attention and the majority of the media coverage.

I'd be very careful if I was a luvvie, the writing is on the wall for the supremacy of celebrity which has been the way of modern culture for recent decades.

The late A.A. Gill once wrote a brilliantly-prescient essay in *The Sunday Times Magazine* in which he forecast that the Age of Celebrity would soon pass and the importance of its principals would become as dust. The Celebrity Age, Gill argued, was just a phase like the Stone Age and the Iron Age, and that we would grow out of it, we will tire of the delusion that celebrities are finer people than ourselves.

Unlike fame, which is accorded to those, like my ex-boss, who have shown exceptional talent and have received great success for the mani-

festation of that talent, celebrity has frequently been awarded in recent years to those who have no more talent than my cat. They are lauded just because they have managed to get in the public eye, often for marrying someone with actual talent or for wearing some sort of revealing clothing. We all know the ones.

It is no great secret that the public is beginning to grow weary of celebrities. Whilst many of them have grown richer and richer for just standing there, many of us have found it increasingly difficult to earn a crust. And we have started to realise that when they open their mouths to make the opinions that they frequently do, nothing that Einstein would have said comes out.

Whilst his predecessor seemed at times incapable of opening a can of beans without being flanked by stars, the new most powerful man on the planet appears to show a refreshing lack of dependency on celebrities. President Trump – the man who is going to set the world's agenda for the next four years whether we like it or not – already appears to be less than impressed with their importance.

Already, Trump has had a couple of swipes at the stars. Just before Christmas he Tweeted a clear indication of whom he would prefer to hang out with – “The so-called ‘A’ list celebrities are all wanting tixs to the inauguration, but look what they did for Hillary, NOTHING. I want the PEOPLE!”

Following his inauguration he again Tweeted his obvious disdain for the luvvies when he posted, “Watched protests yesterday but was under the impression that we just had an election! Why didn't these people vote? Celebs hurt cause badly.”

“Celebs hurt cause badly”, now there's a big hint of the way things could be heading. The rise of populism means the fall of elitism, and few are more elite than the stars...

BAFTA has been busy issuing all manner of urgent denials, frantically distancing itself from the claims that it did not want Kate to steal the limelight and now of course it is in a pickle. When the Duchess shows up against the background that she was allegedly not wanted by some quarters, BAFTA executives could be so red-faced with embarrassed and profuse apologies that they will be indistinguishable from the colour of their celebrated carpet.

Celebrities and the entire show-business industry may do well to heed the fact that unlike Kate, whose popularity with the public both here and internationally far exceeds that of any artist with the possible exception of a Beatle, their success, wealth and standing is entirely predicated upon getting the bums of that public on seats at their shows – and the public can take them down as easily as they put them up there.

However, with this “row” now hovering in the background, it should make this year's BAFTA event compulsive viewing. So it could be argued that whomever leaked the story has actually played a publicity master-stroke.

I'm hoping that, as her comment on this awkward matter, Kate will not only go, but that she will attend with a new attention-grabbing hairstyle, wearing stockings and with a parrot on her shoulder.

Decision day looming over George's education

DECISIONS, decisions... will the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge dig deep into the wallet to spend up to more than £20,000 to send Prince George to school in Kensington or Chelsea, or will they save a fortune and send him to somewhere free?

Speculation is rife about where the infant prince will first start his schooling. Some say he has already been put down for Wetherby Prep in Notting Hill, the acclaimed institution which his father and uncle both attended and which is listed in the *Good Schools Guide* of commanding fees of £20,595 a year.

Others are tipping the Cambridges to be favouring Wetherby Kensington, a new school opening in Wetherby Gardens in September. And others are predicting that the choice will be for Faulkner House, a prep school for boys aged four to 11, which will also be opening at that time, in Earls Court.

Or perhaps Prince William is keen on George following his grandfather, and study at Hill House School's classrooms for children aged four and five, in Flood Street, Chelsea?

Or, and would not this be a turn-up for the books, there's also the option of an excellent community school, Fox Primary in Notting Hill.

There's no fees at Fox but Ofsted rates it an outstanding place. Indeed, not only is it outstanding, it is also judged to be the best in the land. Fox has been ranked the top primary school in the country according to the *Sunday Times Schools Guide* and, as an additional bonus that any schoolboy will welcome, it's “not competitive”.

The guide ranks the highest-achieving primary schools based on three years of results in the annual SATS exams taken by 11-year-olds. At Fox, 73 per cent of children reached level five in reading, writing and mathematics in 2013, rising to 86 per cent in 2014 and 93 per cent in 2015.

Paul Cotter, the executive head of the school, said: “We are not a competitive school. Our success is based on teaching the children properly, slowly and in depth from reception to Year 6.”

“Fox School offers much more than excellent academic standards,” said a spokesman for Kensington and Chelsea council, which is very proud of the place. “Children grow their own food and keep bees and sell honey. The school has even produced its own cookbook.”

What more could a duchess want? Her own four-year-old beekeeper and tiny Jamie Oliver. And there's more.

“There is also a strong emphasis on sport and PE. Pupils have represented Kensington and Chelsea in the London Youth Games in basketball, tag rugby and hockey. The school is a veritable hotbed of table-tennis talent and its girls team were crowned national champions in 2014-15,” said the spokesman, whose praise was endorsed by Cllr Emma Will, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's cabinet member for education.

She said: “We are incredibly proud of all our primary schools. Therefore, it is very pleasing to see Fox Primary at the top of this important table. Clearly when it comes to ensuring pupils receive a first-rate education Fox excels. But it does so much more to nurture and develop children which is why it is thoroughly deserving of this accolade.”

And doubtless deserving of a prince. We shall see.

Capital nights

gigguide

Compiled by Jack Dixon



The Radio Dept

Scala, Camden

Tuesday January 31

Swedish shoegazers best known for bass-led grooves and synth-driven dream pop. The band enjoyed some moderate success with sleeper hit *Heaven's On Fire* from their acclaimed third album *Clinging To A Scheme*. Returned in 2016 with well-received album number four, *Running Out Of Love*, after six years of static.



Martha Wainwright & Ed Harcourt

Roundhouse, Camden

Thursday February 2

Two beguiling singer-songwriters combine for a delightful double-header. Wainwright's latest album, *Goodnight City*, returns to the rawness of her first release and includes songs written by Beth Orton, Glen Hansard and her brother, Rufus Wainwright. As well as his own records, Harcourt has produced and co-written for artists including James Bay and Paloma Faith.



Skunk Anansie

O2 Academy, Brixton

Saturday February 4

London rock band who made a name for themselves with an edgier brand of Britpop during the mid-90s. Enjoyed chart success with *Paranoid & Sunburnt*, *Stoosh* and *Post Orgasmic Chill* – and are still recording today after reforming in 2009 following a 10-year absence. Fronted by the iconic singer Skin, the band released album number six *Anarchyteature* last year.

WHEN Bridget Christie arrived in south west London for the first day of her drama scholarship at the Academy of Live and Recorded Arts, she probably had loftier ambitions than standing on stage at the Edinburgh Festival 20 years later, berating her sound man while dressed in an elaborate ant costume.

Back in 1994, as she set out on the three-year course in Wandsworth, Christie harboured dreams of a rather more illustrious acting career.

Born in Gloucester to Irish parents, her escape to London was meant to catapult her straight to the big time.

Perhaps it didn't quite turn out the way she planned. But two decades on and Christie finds herself inching towards the household-name status as one of the most revered female stand-ups on the circuit.

Now in her mid-40s, she completed her 12th successive run at the Edinburgh Fringe last summer.

Her laugh-out-loud shows have spanned subjects ranging from her five-year stint as a *Daily Mail* gossip hound to the 17th-century court of King Charles II.

But she revised her latest project at the last minute to tackle a topic much more commonplace in the comedy cannon – Brexit.

Previously titled *Mortal*, the show was supposed to catalogue snippets of her terminal decline – all the gory details, she says, “ageing and water massages” – but the result of the EU referendum triggered an 11th-hour change of heart.

Out went the horseplay and in came the references to Brexiteer frontmen Michael Gove and Boris Johnson. *Because You Demanded It*, the title became.

“If you didn't want to leave the EU, or you did, but now you don't because everything's gone to s***,” she says, “then this is absolutely the show for you.”

Christie has already sold out a handful of dates for her reprise of the show at the Leicester Square Theatre, which begins tonight.

It marks a growing admiration for the blossom-

Previewing
BRIDGET CHRISTIE
at Leicester Square



Picture: Rich Harcastle

ing stand-up, who has been a favourite for years among her contemporaries.

While her best work has been reserved for the stage, Christie has also appeared on the box in several guises – Channel 4's award-winning sketch show *Cardinal Burns*, the BBC's panel-show staples *Have I Got News For You* and *Room 101* as well as a host of credits for Radio 4 favourites *The Unbelievable Truth*, *The News Quiz* and *The Infinite Monkey Cage*.

Sling into her repertoire a series of regular national-newspaper columns and a couple of celebrated books, and Christie is well on the way to national-treasure territory.

She still carries her distinctive Gloucestershire twang, and her comedy is confident, cutting and stylish – but with a child-like naivety that gives her an endearing quality.

“It's very exciting for me to be performing my own show on this stage,” she said of her recent performance at the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon. “My younger drama-school self would not believe this.”

Bridget Christie will perform Because You Demanded It at the Leicester Square Theatre between January 31 and February 11.

“I have gained extra customers to fill my empty tables”



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Capital nights

Geoff Baker reports on the BBC's new drive to encourage young people to explore issues surrounding their mental health

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Sainsbury's Store	15-17 Tottenham Court Road	Central London	W1T 1BJ
Co-op	504-506 Harrow Road	Paddington	W9 3QA
Tesco Classic Metro	22-25 Bedford Street	London	WC2E 9ED
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Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL
Portobello Rd Market Office	72 Tavistock Road		W11 1AN

Fulham Chronicle LONDON WEEKLY NEWS IS pick up points

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Avonmore Lib. & Neighbourhood Ctr	North End Crescent		W14 8TG
Fulham Good Neighbours	70 Rosalind Road		SW6 7QT

Hammersmith CHRONICLE LONDON WEEKLY NEWS IS pick up points

The Grove Neighbourhood Centre	7 Bradmore Park Road	Hammersmith	W6 0DT
Hammersmith Library	Shepherd's Bush Road		W6 7AT

Shepherd's Bush CHRONICLE LONDON WEEKLY NEWS IS pick up points

Westfield Library	6 Wood Lane		W12 7BF
Askew Road Library	87-91 Askew Road		W12 9AS

INSPIRED by the work of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry, the BBC is launching a campaign for better understanding of mental health across television, radio and online. BBC Radio 1, 1Xtra and Asian Network have started a drive to encourage young people to explore issues surrounding their mental health.

"The aim is to get young people talking about mental health; to reduce the stigma around mental illness and to raise awareness and understanding of mental-health issues that affect young people," said a spokesman.

"Young people will be at the heart of *My Mind And Me*, which is why Radio 1, 1Xtra and Asian Network have partnered up with the National Citizen Service, the UK's flagship youth-empowerment programme for 16- and 17-year-olds, to create a group of social action champions."

This group of young people from across the UK will work with the stations to help shape the campaign throughout the year, offering their insights, stories and experiences, and leading discussions on the key issues around mental health.

Across 2017 on Radio 1, 1Xtra and Asian Network, *My Mind And Me* will offer a platform for listeners to discuss their own experiences, and will give guidance and support covering all areas of mental wellbeing, from dealing with stress and pressure around exams to self-esteem, confidence and body image, to anxiety and depression.

The campaign follows on from Radio 1's work in shining a spotlight on youth mental health in October 2016, when a mental-health category was added to Radio 1 Teen Awards – the station's annual celebration honouring inspirational Teen Heroes.

Radio 1 DJs and Radio 1 Teen Heroes of 2016 – who went above and beyond what is expected of them to help others – were invited to meet the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge at their Kensington Palace home, where they were praised for their inspira-

tional work and being crowned Teen Heroes of 2016 in categories including those focused on mental health and volunteering.

Across BBC Radio 1 and 1Xtra Stories, BBC iPlayer specials, BBC Radio 1Xtra talks, and a series of *Newsbeat* reports and documentaries, an ambitious year-long project will follow a group of young people and their mental-health journeys. The campaign will invite listeners to join the conversation and share their own personal stories.

deserve good mental health and encouraging people to share their experiences is a good place to start."

Meanwhile, this spring the BBC will host a season of films on mental health, across television, radio and online.

The season includes a two-part programme on BBC One following a group of 10 runners affected by mental-health issues as they prepare to run the 2017 Virgin Money London Marathon, a *Horizon Special* on BBC Two looking at

"It's incredibly important that Radio 1 also uses its platform to talk about more serious issues that affect our listeners, like mental health"
– Greg James



Every month in 2017 Radio 1's *Surgery*, presented by Gemma Cairney and Dr Radha, will be an hour-long special show focusing on different aspects of mental health: from challenging perceptions around mental health to exploring topics ranging from the benefits of exercise on mental wellbeing, to eating disorders and self-harm.

Ben Cooper, controller, Radio 1, 1Xtra and Asian Network, says: "From Prime Ministers to our young listeners, we all recognise the need to change attitudes to mental health and I'm looking forward to the BBC's youth radio stations being a force for good around this issue in the UK."

Radio 1's Greg James said: "As well as what we're traditionally known for, I think it's incredibly important that Radio 1 also uses its platform to talk about more serious issues that affect our listeners, like mental health for example."

"I'm proud to work for a station that isn't scared to do something different and it's great that our listeners trust us to deal with a variety of issues without patronising them."

Olly Alexander said: "Our mental health is very important. I'm happy that Radio 1 and 1Xtra are shining a light on these issues that affect all of us. We all

schizophrenia and advancements in the treatment of psychoses, a documentary on stress for BBC One and a documentary from mental-health campaigner Jack Rooke for BBC Three.

Charlotte Moore, director of content, said: "One in four of us experience mental-health problems in any given year, yet people with mental-health issues still feel isolated and unable to talk about them. I hope this season of thought-provoking programmes across the BBC will contribute to an important national conversation, challenge discrimination and tackle the stigma that continues to surround mental health."

Alison Kirkham, controller of factual, said: "More than ever, people are realising the importance of looking after their mental as well as their physical health and this season of programmes explores what we can all do to look after ourselves and support others."

"From Nick Knowles discovering how sport or exercise can benefit our psychological wellbeing to Fiona Phillips finding out how best to control stress levels and BBC Three focusing specifically on mental-health issues in men, I hope that this season of programmes will inspire us all to think differently about our mental health."

Capital nights

ONLY three British bands have bagged the honour of securing a gold-certified debut album in the US over the past 10 years. One Direction, you might have guessed. Mumford & Sons would have been a safe bet. But the other ... ?

The xx, you might be surprised to discover, have shifted a dizzying 2.7 million copies of their two studio LPs – and the low-key trio have a formidable following the world over.

The Londoners return with record number three this month, accompanied by no fewer than seven sold-out shows at Brixton's O2 Academy.

It's an astonishing achievement for such an unconventional band. Their minimalist sound is characterised by the breathy vocals and softly-softly instrumentation of front-of-stage pairing Romy Madley Croft and Oliver Sim.

But it throbs with the stylish club beats of Jamie Smith, showering these skeletal songs in a cool afterglow.

"The record sounds triumphant and celebratory," says Jamie of the band's third album *I See You*.

"But the journey we went on and what we had to go through to get to this point should be acknowledged."

I See You is the spoils of four years' hard labour – a record that sees The xx performing with new nerve, transparency and clarity.

It's overflowing with crisp pop structures and off-beat crescendos that echo a dextrous DJ inching towards a climax without ever quite lifting the house lights.

Meanwhile, its lyric sheet moves from the danger and hopelessness of love to its deliciousness and rapture.

Electrifying and intense but at the same time tender and soft-centred, this is the three counterweights of The xx starting not just to realise but harness their full potential.

In the four years since the trio's last album, *Coexist*, Jamie has shot to solo stardom with the huge success of his 2015 LP *In Colour*.

Aptly titled, it explored a more lively and explosive style than the band's previously spider-framed songs – an influence that is plain to see on *I See You*.

"Jamie's record had a big effect on me," admits Romy. "It was the sense of being outside of something you'd been involved in."

"Observing it, I found, made me appreciate what I do a lot more. There was so much pride and admiration in what Jamie had done ... but it also inspired a hunger."

Work on *I See You* began with conversation between Oliver and Romy while Jamie was still making *In Colour*.

In contrast to their previous albums, which were crafted while bunkered down in secret studios, the trio travelled to Los Angeles, Texas, New York and finally Iceland to put together the 10 tracks.

Their experimentation led to new sounds and textures – from Oliver's Afrobeat bass to Romy's more playful purr and a terrifically inventive sample



Jack Dixon
previews
The xx
at O2 Academy,
Brixton

pinched from Hall & Oates' *I Can't Go For That* on the lead single *On Hold*.

With their unforeseen reach, The xx have quietly become trusted hands across the wider pop hemisphere.

Romy has written with Kelela, Jamie produced for Drake and Alicia Keys. The band even curated their own festival, Night and Day, extending branches from London to Berlin and Lisbon.

"We've always really loved pop and for this record we were trying to find new ways of doing things," says Romy.

"It was terrifying but I think I knew it was going to be horrible and I wanted that. I knew it was going to be a test."

The xx were once a lesson in beautiful compression, looking inward, exploring quietude and subtlety.

But they are more than that, today. Three friends who obsessed together, drifted apart and found an invigorated new meaning and purpose.

"It's about seeing reflections of yourself in other people," says Jamie. "It's basically us understanding each other better. Being pals again. We went through lots of ways of saying that and *I See You* seemed the best."

The xx perform at the O2 Academy in Brixton between March 8 and 15. Tickets have sold out for all dates. The new album *I See You* is out now.



Wine&dine

Prezzo nets bottom place in survey of sustainable seafood

PREZZO and Itsu restaurants plus pub chain Wetherspoon came bottom in a survey of sustainable seafood on offer at high-street eateries. A lack of information about the sources of

seafood is one of the biggest barriers for diners trying to eat seafood sustainably, according to the analysis.

Eleven high-street restaurant chains and pubs were assessed, totalling more than 2,000 branches nationwide, on the sustainability of the seafood that features on their menus.

Cafe Rouge and Bella Italia came out top, followed by Harry Ramsden's, Beefeater, Cote Brasserie and Carluccio's. But Prezzo, Wetherspoon and Itsu were at the bottom.

Researchers from the Marine Conservation Society and online restaurant guide Fish2fork found that, even when pubs and eateries buy seafood that is caught or produced responsibly, it can be difficult for the diner to tell which have made the effort to seek out sustainable supplies.



Wetherspoons and Prezzo both failed to make it clear on their menus where their king prawns derived.

Itsu has prawns on its menus but fails even to say what type are used. Similarly, Prezzo served sea bass but failed to make clear if it was farmed or wild.

But Fish2fork and the MCS were pleased that chain pubs and restaurants are increasingly willing to switch to sustainable seafood.

Of the 11 chain restaurants and pubs as-

essed, just three failed to meet minimum standards of sustainability in the Fish2fork assessment criteria, which include the need to be transparent about sourcing.

During the ratings process, six of the 11 restaurants changed their sourcing practices to be more sustainable.

These included Cafe Rouge and Bella Italia which have improved their Fish2fork rating over the last year.

Cafe Rouge now gets a 3.5 blue fish rating and Bella Italia three blue fish, making them highly sustainable restaurants.

Tim Glover, managing director of Fish2fork, said: "It's fantastic that some of the UK's most popular restaurants really are making an effort to seek out sustainable sources of seafood."

"But we are troubled that it is so often difficult for diners to know how sustainable a restaurant's seafood is."

"We would urge restaurants to make a greater effort to make it clear on their menus where their seafood comes from, though we recognise that it can be difficult for them to get detailed information from suppliers."

"Sustainability is a vital ingredient in any dish but diners shouldn't be left to guess whether it's there or not."

Samuel Stone, of the MCS, said: "It's brilliant to see so many high-street restaurants now seeking more sustainable seafood, yet they need to bolster traceability and do more to tell their diners about the seafood they are serving."

"When eating out on the high street, diners need to know they aren't going to be consuming seafood that is red rated or listed as endangered."

"Telling diners where and how seafood has been produced and using the various seafood ecolabels available is key to this."

Tim Doubleday, chief financial officer at Casual Dining Group which includes Cafe Rouge and Bella Italia, said: "We recognise the profound responsibility all restaurant businesses have in sourcing fish ethically and sustainably, and as such taking it extremely seriously, striving to be recognised as a leader in this area."

"We have worked hard to scrutinise our supply chain, systems and processes to categorically ensure sustainable sourcing across all our brands – Cafe Rouge, Bella Italia, Las Iguanas and La Tasca."

Other restaurant chains praised for their level of seafood sustainability were Harry Ramsden's, Cote Brasserie, Beefeater, Brewers Fayre, Carluccio's and Eat.

The chain restaurants were rated according to the information on their online menus, websites and from what they directly told the researchers.

Fish2fork ratings are on a scale of five red fish, the worst, to five blue fish, the best.

● THE RATINGS

Cafe Rouge 3.5 blue; Bella Italia 3 blue; Harry Ramsden's 2.5 blue; Beefeater 2.5 blue; Cote Brasserie 2.5 blue; Carluccio's 2.5 blue; Brewers Fayre 2 blue; Eat 2 blue; Wetherspoon 0.5 red; Itsu 0.5 red; Prezzo 1 red.

MARK HIX MBE'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Grilled ox liver with rhubarb

Serves 4



IN my youth, ox liver would be braised unto death – or at least, until it started to turn a sickly shade of green.

Slice and grill it like calf's liver, removing any sinew – and then it tastes brilliant.

Ideally you need a smallish liver from a younger animal.

4 or 8 slices from an ox liver, cut about ½cm thick
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
A little vegetable oil for brushing
1-2 sticks of rhubarb, trimmed
120ml cider vinegar
100ml caster sugar

For the sauce
2 shallots, peeled and finely chopped
A good knob of butter
1tsp plain flour
½tsp tomato puree
100ml red wine
250ml beef stock

First make the sauce: melt the butter in a thick-bottomed pan and gently cook the shallots for two to three minutes, until lightly coloured.

Add the flour and tomato puree and stir well over a low heat for a minute. Gradually add the red wine, stirring to avoid lumps, and then gradually add the beef stock.

Bring to the boil and simmer very gently for about 20 to 25 minutes, giving the occasional whisk, until the sauce has reduced by about two thirds and thickened. Remove from the heat and cover with a lid.

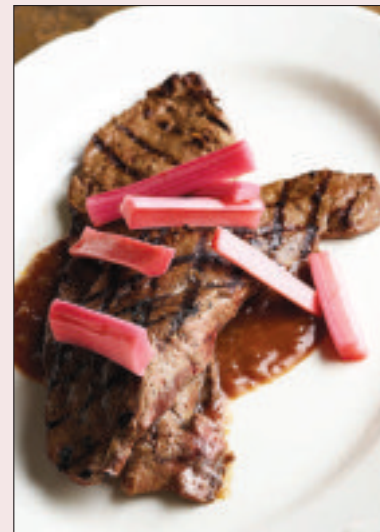
Cut the rhubarb into 4cm to 5cm lengths, then cut them into ½cm-wide sticks and put them into a bowl.

Bring the vinegar to the boil, stir in the sugar until melted and bring back to the boil.

Pour over the rhubarb, cover with clingfilm and leave for about an hour or until required.

To serve, heat a ribbed griddle pan on the stove, season the slices of liver on both sides, brush the griddle pan with oil and cook the liver for one to two minutes on each side, keeping them nice and pink.

Finally, spoon a little of the hot sauce on to warmed serving plates, place the liver on top, then drain and scatter the rhubarb over.



Disciplined mustn't be hit hardest by tax on sugary drinks, claims new research

A "SUGAR tax" on fizzy drinks needs to be sufficiently high to stop people who only buy small sizes being punished the most, according to new research.

Devious supermarkets and restaurants will simply offer BOGOF or super-size deals to encourage customers to buy even more sugary drinks if a levy is not set at the right level, warns the study.

The government published draft legislation last month for a tax on sugar-sweetened drinks, which is set to begin from April next year. The rate has yet to be set but health campaigners hope the proposed tax will help tackle the nation's growing obesity crisis.

Several cities in the US are now considering introducing or reviewing their existing soda taxes, while other countries – including France, Hungary and Mexico – have such taxes already. Australia, New Zealand and South Africa are also contemplating introducing so-called sugar taxes.

The new study models how retailers – including supermarkets and restaurants – might use different sizes of sugary drinks with different relative prices to target different consumer groups.

The researchers argue that economic welfare would be improved if firms could be dissuaded from using "value size" pricing – such as buy one, get one free deals – which involves selling larger-size drinks at much lower unit prices than smaller sizes. They say the economic benefit

would be in addition to the health benefit from reduced consumption of harmful sugary drinks.

The researchers say such value-size pricing is exceptionally harmful when it leads to excessive consumption of unhealthy food and drinks, as well as exploiting shoppers who want to stick to smaller sizes for their own health and enjoyment.

They warned that policymakers shouldn't underestimate the determination of retailers to profitably exploit shoppers, and poorly designed measures which don't fully take that into account can damage rather than improve economic welfare.

The researchers say their findings, published in the *Journal of Business Research*, provide further justification for introducing a "substantial" soft-drinks industry levy to tackle the problem of excessive consumption of sugary drinks fuelling obesity.

Study leader Professor Paul Dobson, of the University of East Anglia's Norwich Business School, said that the drinks industry is seeking to make any tax as low as possible when it needs to be high to change pricing policy in a meaningful way.

Prof Dobson said: "Our paper conveys a really important point that is fundamental to public policy making in this area but which has been entirely overlooked. This is that the current basis for intervention to restrict the excessive quantity of sugary drinks rests entirely on the premise that

this will be good for the health of consumers and a cost saving to society from reduced healthcare costs.

"However, there are good economic reasons as well as health reasons to have a sugary-drinks tax as a means to curb excessive consumption of calorie-laden sugary drinks and encourage more efficient pricing."

"A levy needs to be set high enough to ensure that the retailers are discouraged from imposing a surcharge on smaller drinks sizes, which penalises moderating consumption in order to steer consumers towards consuming excessively through relative discounts and multi-buy offers on large drinks sizes."

He said in a recent example of the kind of temptation that value-size pricing offers shoppers, a leading supermarket was selling a sugary fizzy drink before Christmas where the small-size bottle was more than four times more expensive than a multi-pack.

Prof Dobson said similar incentives to go large exist at restaurants, fast-food outlets and other eateries where for a few extra pence customers can super-size their sugary drinks or have free refills.

He said: "It is no wonder that many consumers feel compelled to take advantage of the size discount and then consequently overconsume."

"Equally, those consumers sticking to the small size can feel aggrieved at being penalised by paying a high price for their discipline in restricting their consumption."

Talk of the town

THE opportunity to work with Hollywood royalty doesn't present itself very often, particularly the chance to perform alongside them in a multi-award-winning play. When Jeremy Irvine learned that Ed Harris would be coming to London to perform Sam Shepard's *Buried Child*, the actor knew immediately that it was a once-in-a-lifetime chance to be in the cast beside the movie legend.

After he successfully landed the role as the grandson of Harris' character in the production at Trafalgar Studios, Irvine has enjoyed a critically acclaimed run, along with the all-star cast, and the show has just been extended due to popular demand.

Irvine told me about the play. He said: "It's a dark comedy with a capital D for dark and it's about a family that lives in one of the remotest parts of America."

"These isolated families often fester among themselves and this particular family has a very dark secret, which has been tearing them apart for the last 15 years."

"When their grandson comes back to visit, the secret starts to be revealed."

Irvine is best known for leading the cast as Albert in the smash hit film adaptation of Michael Morpurgo's *War Horse* in 2011, a role which launched his career and which catapulted the young actor to worldwide stardom.

He went on to earn widespread critical acclaim for his role opposite Dakota Fanning in the independent film *Now Is Good*, which led critics to list him among Hollywood's fastest-rising stars.

In 2013, he gained a reputation as a method actor after losing more than 25lb and performing his own stunts in the film adaptation of *The Railway Man*. It's a label the 26-year-old is quick to dismiss, however.

"That's a phrase that's been put on me. People have this idea that you stay in character the whole time. Well, how does that work when your mum calls you? It just doesn't but there are times when you want to commit, particularly if you're doing a film."

Hollywood legend Harris stars as Dodge, a decaying former farmer who is choking with his resentment towards life.

His sharp-tongued spouse Halie (Harris' real-life wife Amy Madigan) noisily mourns the passing of their son Ansel, while their surviving offspring – aggressive amputee Bradley (Gary Shaffer) and tormented Tilden (Barnaby Kay) – devastatingly display the manifestations of earlier traumas.

Irvine is relishing the occasion of performing alongside the stellar cast.

He said: "Ed is in character from the minute he's in the theatre until the minute he's out of the theatre and when you are working with people who are committing to that level, you have to up your game and make sure that you're as committed as they are."

The portrayal of an all-American dysfunctional family feels, at first, perfectly acceptable – that is until they are paid a visit by Dodge's grandson Vince (Irvine)

and his girlfriend Shelley (Charlotte Hope), who, after a harrowing introduction, ensures the true horrors of the past become apparent.

Irvine said: "It's about a family of alcoholics and my part of the play is that you can't escape your past and your addictions; he's from a family of alcoholics and he's an alcoholic."

"He tries to run away to New York to get away from that but ends up coming back and realises he can never escape his own addictions and his own demons."

"He's a troubled young soul and, I have to say, it takes a couple of hours each night to leave him at the theatre and not take him home with me. He's definitely not the sort of person you would wish to share a flat with."

The complex character has a very unrestricted onstage meltdown in a scene which is visually impressive but is inevitably extremely taxing to perform.

"That was the only bit that we didn't really rehearse because, for people who haven't seen the play, I come in and have this insane breakdown. There's only one way to do that and that's to do it for real. You don't want to be doing that in a rehearsal room because you'd burn yourself out."

Buried Child was first presented in San Francisco before it transferred to Broadway in 1978 and went on to win Shepard a Pulitzer Prize for drama and an Obie Award for playwriting. The 1996 Broadway production was nominated for five Tony Awards including best play. And the current production enjoyed a celebrated Off-Broadway run with Harris at the helm last year before its London transfer.

Irvine told me the slightly unusual format of the play has proved immensely popular with modern audiences in the capital, with the action split into bite-size portions.

"It's three short acts, so I've been describing it to my mates as being like watching a series on Netflix. You watch episode one and have a little break and then the next episode comes on. Each episode is only 40 minutes long so actually you don't feel like you have had to sit through something too long."

As well as revelling in the theatrical adventure himself, Irvine is adamant that audiences should take the opportunity to see this extraordinary gathering of talent before it's too late.

He said: "I think this is probably going to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see Ed Harris performing Sam Shepard's work in the West End."

"It's never happened before, it may never happen again and I really can't stress enough how special that is. Although the subject matter is very dark, it's a comedy and it's very funny."

Buried Child continues at Trafalgar Studios until March 4. For more details, visit buriedchildplay.co.uk.

Nicky Sweetland
chats with
BURIED CHILD
star
Jeremy Irvine

Ed Harris, left, Jeremy Irvine and Charlotte Hope in *Buried Child* at Trafalgar Studios Picture: Johan Persson



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Talk of the town

Powerful emotional journey is must-see

The Kite Runner
Wyndham's Theatre

ADAPTING a best-selling novel for the stage is a brave move, particularly when it also follows a hit film, writes Nicky Sweetland.

But Matter Span- gler has managed to capture all of the potency of Khaled Hosseini's ac- claimed story with his adaptation of *The Kite Runner* at Wyndham's The- atre and given depth to its com- plex and extraordi- nary characters.

The original 2003 novel has been pub- lished in more than 70 countries, sell- ing more than 31.5 million copies in 60 different lan- guages. So the heart- breaking story is fami- liar to most and is told by Amir (Ben Turner), a refugee, who looks back at the events which have shaped his life and ultimately resulted in a need to find ab- solution.

Amir is a wealthy Phusan and his best friend Hassan (Andrei Costin) is a poor Hazaras, who acts as a servant to the family. The pair spend their days running around the streets of Kabul, acting out fantasies and flying kites, much like any normal boyhood friends, but Afghanistan in the 1970s has a monster waiting in the wings: war is ap- proaching.

With a clever take on the narra- tive, the adult ac- tors regress to their childhood selves, rather than using child actors to de- pict the brutality, which somehow makes the horrific events which un- fold a little more palatable.

Costin's wide- eyed, youthful looks assist in the deception, while Turner's convinc- ing transformation into a selfish and ignorant youth forces the audience to have some empa- thy towards the otherwise unlik- able and spoiled adolescent.

Turner's per- formance throughout is remarkable, seamlessly switch- ing from one emo- tional episode to another and com- manding the stage at all times. His supporting cast is also excellent, with Nicholas Karimi suitably hateful as the thuggish Assef, while Emilio Door- gasingh as Baba provides the per- fect mix of pompos- ity and pride.

Eerie whistling spinners are used to make the sound of the breeze, while kite sails mark changes of scene in front of a stark cityscape. The sim- plicity of Barney George's design means the multi- faceted fable is never inhibited in its intent and the pace is mostly maintained, al- though some of the Act Two dialogue could still be streamlined fur- ther to make for a shorter running time – because at two hours and 45 minutes including an interval, the show feels too long.

That said, *The Kite Runner* offers a powerful and highly charged emotional journey for theatregoers and is a must-see show this season.

The Kite Runner runs at Wyndham's Theatre until March 11. For more details, see delfontmickintosh.co.uk/tickets/TheKiteRunner/TheKiteRunner.asp.



Previewing
HENRY V
at Southwark
Cathedral

Antic Disposition's
Henry V in 2016
Picture courtesy of Scott Rylander

AFTER a highly acclaimed tour in 2016, Antic Disposition's production of William Shakespeare's *Henry V* returns to embark on a tour of eight of the UK's most his- toric and beautiful cathedrals including the glorious Southwark Cathedral.

Marking the ongoing centenary of the First World War, Antic Disposition's reimagining is set in a French military hospital in 1915 – 500 years after the Battle of Agincourt – where two groups of wounded soldiers, one French and one British, decide to raise their spirits by staging a production of *Henry V*.

Moving effortlessly between 1415 and 1915, Antic Disposition's *Henry V* combines Shakespeare's epic history play with origi- nal songs and live music inspired by the po-

etry of AE Housman, in a powerful tribute to the young soldiers caught up in conflicts five centuries apart.

Performed by a talented international cast of British and French actors, the pro- duction celebrates the rich and often turbu- lent relationship between our two nations, from the Hundred Years War to the Entente Cordiale.

Directors Ben Horslen and John Risebero said: "*Henry V* is a project close to our hearts. In this First World War centenary year, we're delighted to be sharing the pro- duction, and the company's work, with new audiences in the North and East of England, and honoured to be performing in some of the most remarkable medieval buildings in the country."

Award-winning theatre company Antic Disposition, founded by Horslen and direc-

tor/designer Risebero, is best known for presenting innovative and visually striking productions of classic plays and stories in spectacular historic buildings.

Recent London productions include *A Christmas Carol* in the Elizabethan setting of Middle Temple Hall, *The Comedy Of Errors* in Gray's Inn Hall and *Romeo And Juliet* in the Temple Church.

Antic Disposition's *Henry V* has previ- ously toured France, received two London runs, and has been performed in Winches- ter, Salisbury, Bristol, Gloucester and Worcester cathedrals and in Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon, burial place of Shakespeare, as part of 2016's Shake- speare400 celebrations.

The very special production of Henry V will be at Southwark Cathedral on February 2, 3, 21 and 22. For more details, visit anticdisposition.co.uk.

Only Fools And Horses star back on West End stage



NICHOLAS Lyndhurst, pictured, will be taking audiences to new heights when he joins Alfie Boe and Katherine Jenkins in the clas- sic musical *Carousel* at the London Coliseum this year.

The BAFTA Award-winning actor will return to the West End stage to portray the star keeper when the English National Opera present a semi-staged production of the Rogers and Hammerstein hit musical.

Lyndhurst was last seen on the West End stage in Trevor Nunn's 2011 production of *The Tempest* at the Theatre Royal Haymarket. His

other West End credits include Allan Davis' *The Straight And Nar- row* at Wyndham's Theatre, Peter Hall's production of *The Dresser* at the Duke of York's Theatre and *The Foreigner*, by Larry Shue, at the Al- bany Theatre.

He is best known for his classic television series *Only Fools And Horses*, *Goodnight Sweetheart*, *After You've Gone*, *Rock & Chips* and *Butterflies*. Lyndhurst can also be seen in the 2016 film *A United Kingdom*.

Further casting includes Brenda Edwards (Nettie Fowler), Derek Hagen (Jigger Craigin), Alex Young (Carrie Pipperidge), Gavin Spokes

(Enoch Snow), Susan Kyd (Mrs Mullin), Martyn Ellis (Mr Bas- combe) and Davide Fienauri (Car- nival Boy). Final casting will be announced shortly.

When the charming carousel barker Billy Bigelow falls in love with Julie Jordan, little do they re- alise that their relationship will end in tragedy.

Fifteen years after getting caught up in an armed robbery, Billy gets the chance to redeem his past and restore pride to his family.

Carousel will run at the London Coliseum from April 7 until May 13. Visit eno.org for more details.

Property

THE rental market in central London is showing signs of a slowdown amid a dip in demand, new research suggests.

Experts believe the tail-off in tenant demand coupled with landlords looking to other UK cities is holding up the market.

According to property website *mortgagestrategy.co.uk*, the number of landlords in central London who reported a rise in tenant demand over the last three months has fallen by almost a third compared to the same time last year.

The findings suggest tenants are looking to move out of the central part of the city and into the more affordable suburbs, with 40 per cent of landlords in the wider South East region reporting a rise in demand.

The drop in demand coincides with a more conservative approach from landlords to snapping up property in the capital.

Only five per cent of landlords who operate in London said they planned to purchase more properties in the next quarter - the lowest of all regions across the UK.

In contrast, the proportion of

landlords operating in the North East who plan to buy in the next three months has almost doubled - up from 10 per cent this time last year to 19 per cent today.

Similarly, the proportion of landlords in Yorkshire with their eyes on new property also jumped significantly from 10 per cent to 16 per cent.

Carolyn Uphill, chair of the National Landlords Association, told the site that central London was becoming too expensive for most people, regardless of whether they wanted to buy, rent or invest.

"For many tenants the practical solution of moving out of the city to more affordable suburbs with good transport links is becoming increasingly appealing," she added.

"In turn, it seems that landlords have been quick to respond, turning their backs on the capital and looking to other areas where the upfront cost of acquiring property is lower and the potential yields to be had are higher."

According to figures from Countrywide, rents in the capital have fallen by 2.9 per cent over the past year.



Five per cent of landlords who operate in London said they planned to purchase more properties in the next quarter

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Public Notices

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE GLA ROADS AND GLA SIDE ROADS (KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA) RED ROUTE CONSOLIDATION TRAFFIC ORDER 2008 A4 GLA ROAD (CROMWELL ROAD) VARIATION ORDER 2017

1. Transport for London, hereby gives notice that it intends to make the above named Orders under section 6 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
2. The general nature and effect of the Order will be to amend the hours of operation of the bus parking bays:
 - a) Opposite No. 35 Cromwell Road, from No Stopping Mon - Sat 8am - 7pm Except buses max 20 mins no return in 40 to No Stopping At Any Time Except buses pick up or set down only
 - b) Opposite No. 29 Cromwell Road, from No Stopping Mon - Sat 8am - 7pm Except buses max 20 mins no return in 40 to No Stopping At Any Time Except buses pick up or set down only
3. The road which would be affected by the Order is A4 Cromwell Road in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.
4. A copy of the Order, a statement of Transport for London's reasons for the proposals, a map indicating the location and effect of the Order and copies of any Order revoked, suspended or varied by the Order can be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport for London Streets Traffic Order Team (RSM/PI/STOT) Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road London, SE1 8NJ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director for Transport and Highways Transport and Highways Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea Room 114 Council Offices 37 Pembroke Road London W8 6PW
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5. All objections and other representations to the proposed Order must be made in writing and must specify the grounds on which they are made. Objections and representations must be sent to Transport for London, Streets Traffic Order Team, Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ quoting reference RSM/PI/STOT/TRO, GLA/2017/0046, to arrive before 21st February 2017. Objections and other representations may be communicated to other persons who may be affected.

Dated this 31st day of January 2017

Mufu Durowoju

Network Impact Management Team Manager

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Public Notices

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14(1) (MUNSTER ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit northbound vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed in a northbound direction, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Munster Road between its junctions with Fulham Road and Feldon Street.
3. 2 alternative routes for traffic in article 2 would be in place:
 - i) Via Rostrevor Road & Swift Street;
 - ii) Via Durrell Road & Hestercombe Avenue.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 4th February 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Saturday 4th February 2017 and last for 3 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 5th day of January 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14(1) (HAMMERSMITH ROAD) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate construction works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which temporarily suspend the westbound bus lane in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the westbound bus lane on Hammersmith Road, between its junctions with Shortlands and Butterwick, shall be suspended.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 6th February 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Monday 6th February 2017 and last until April 2019. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 13th day of February 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE A3220 GLA ROAD (WARWICK ROAD, ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA)(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC AND STOPPING) ORDER 2017

- Transport for London having consulted Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea hereby gives notice that it intends to make the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
- The purpose of the Order is to enable junction improvement works to take place on A3220 Warwick Road.
- The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from:
 - Stopping on Warwick Road between the extended common boundary of Nos. 6 - 8 Warwick Road and the extended common boundary of Nos. 16 - 18 Warwick Road;
 - Entering, exiting, proceeding or stopping on Earl's Court Square between a point 2.5 metres west of the extended eastern building line of No. 49 Earl's Court Square and its junction with Warwick Road;
 - Local access only will be maintained on Earl's Court Square between the extended common boundary of Nos. 31 and 33 Earl's Court Square and a point 2.5 metres west of the extended eastern building line of No. 49 Earl's Court Square;
 - Entering, exiting, proceeding or stopping on Kemsford Gardens between the extended common boundary of Nos. 45 and 47 Kemsford Gardens and its junction with Warwick Road;
 - Local access only will be maintained on Kemsford Gardens between its junction with Old Brompton Road and the extended common boundary of Nos. 45 and 47 Kemsford Gardens;
 - Closing the pedestrian crossing outside St Cuthbert with St Matthias C of E Primary School;

The Order will also,

- Suspend the one way operation on Earl's Court Square between the extended common boundary of Nos. 31 and 33 Earl's Court Square and a point 2.5 metres west of the extended eastern building line of No. 49 Earl's Court Square to make it two way operational;
- Suspend the one way operation on Kemsford between the extended common boundary of Nos. 45 and 47 Kemsford Gardens and its junction with Warwick Road to make it two way operational

The Order will be effective between the 09.00 AM on the 11th February 2017 until 09.00 PM on the 30th April 2017 or when the works have been completed whichever is the sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.

4. The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:

- any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or or fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
 - anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.
5. At such times as the prohibition is in force an alternative route will be indicated by traffic signs:

For vehicles wishing to enter westbound Warwick Road from Earl's Court Square (Earl's Court Road, Old Brompton Road onto normal route of travel);
For vehicles wishing to enter westbound Warwick Road from Kemsford Gardens (Old Brompton Road onto normal route of travel);
For pedestrians wishing to use the crossing facilities outside St Cuthbert with St Matthias C of E Primary School, at junction of Warwick Road and Kemsford Gardens to normal route of travel;

Dated this 31st day of January 2017

Mufu Duwoju

Network Impact Management Team - Manager,
Road Space Management - Operations Transport for London
Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON



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LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14(1)

(ONGAR ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits southbound vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed in a southbound direction, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Ongar Road between its junctions with Hildyard Road and Halford Road.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Sedlescombe Road, Tamworth Street and Halford Road.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order will come into operation on the 7th March 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works are expected to commence on Tuesday 7th March 2017 and last for 4 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 27th day of January 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Local Planning Applications

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham



PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA

Flat B First Floor 58 Townmead Road London SW6 2RU 2017/00162/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension including the formation of a hip to gable roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; and installation of 2no rooflights in the front roof slope and 2no rooflights above the main flat roof at roof level.

38 Ashchurch Park Villas London W12 9SP

Replacement of existing critical door on the rear elevation at ground floor level with a new aluminium double-glazed door.

Maisonette Ground And First Floors 7 Tadmor Street London W12 8AH

Erection of a rear extension at first floor level on top of the existing back addition; and erection of a single storey rear extension.

10 Verbena Gardens London W6 9TP 2017/00205/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roof slope; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; demolition of the existing single storey garage building in the rear garden.

46 Avonmore Road London W14 8RS 2016/05084/FUL

Excavation of the rear garden to form a lightwell in connection with the enlargement of the basement; replacement of existing railings to rear elevation at upper ground floor level with glass screening.

330A North End Road London SW6 1NF 2017/00132/FUL

Erection of a two storey rear extension following the demolition of part of single storey rear back addition interlinked with a glass walkway from the rear of the main building to the new two storey building in the rear garden; replacement of 2no windows with new windows to the rear elevation and installation of a new window to the side of rear back addition at second floor level; installation of a new rooflight in the rear roof slope; conversion of the loft floor, second, first and part of the ground floor level to provide 1 x two bedroom and 2 x one bedroom self-contained flats.

111 - 115 Wandsworth Bridge Road London SW6 2TE

2016/05552/FUL

Change of use of the basement from retail (Class A1) into residential (Class C3); erection of rear roof extensions including the formation of a hip to gable roof extension; erection of rear extensions at ground, first and second floor levels; alterations to front lightwell; excavation and enlargement of the existing basement and rear lightwell; erection of external staircases and roof terraces at the rear of the property; associated external alterations; conversion of the basement, first, second and third floor levels into 4 x two bedroom and 3 x one bedroom self-contained flats.

9 Warbeck Road London W12 8NS 2017/00115/FUL

Alterations and enlargement of the front lightwell; partial demolition and rebuilding of the single storey back addition; repositioning of the front entrance door at ground floor level.

Southern Terrace Westfield London Shopping Centre Ariel Way London 2016/04870/ADV

Display of non-illuminated signage to the proposed retractable awning to the front elevation to replace existing; display of an internally illuminated fascia sign; and display of an internally illuminated menu box sign attached to a totem structure to replace existing.

27 Kings Mall King Street London W6 0QB

Display of an internally illuminated digital led screen along the first floor flank wall of unit 27 adjacent to the east entrance of the mall.

40 Inglethorpe Street London SW6 6NT 2016/05236/FUL

Erection of a front roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement.

Kadence House 748 Fulham Road London SW6 5SH 2016/05572/FUL

Replacement of existing windows with new double glazed windows; installation of a new front entrance door to replace the existing door; removal of metal security bars on windows at the rear and side elevations; erection of a new external staircase from lower ground to upper ground floor level together with the formation of a store roof beneath the staircase and installation of a dividing wall at lower ground floor level to the front elevation; installation of new lockable timber gates with surrounding fence at the front elevation.

66 Macfarlane Road London W12 7JZ 2017/00124/FUL

Demolition of existing building and erection of a four storey building plus basement consisting of Class D2 Gym use at basement and ground floor levels; four self-contained residential units comprising of 2 x 2 bedroom and 2 x 1 bedroom flats at first, second and third floor levels; formation of roof terraces at first, second and third floor levels; associated bin and cycle storage.

22 Stonor Road London W14 8RZ 2017/00123/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; excavation of the front garden involving the lowering of the floor levels and rear garden, in connection with the enlargement of the basement; erection of a single storey building in rear garden; dropping floor level of front vault to increase head height; replacement of external staircase to front elevation from ground to basement level.

Fiat A Basement

68 Godolphin Road London W12 8JW 2017/00139/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension.

71 Marville Road London SW6 7BB 2017/00098/FUL

Erection of a front mansard roof extension; replace existing window in rear roof extension with doors and a Juliette balcony; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; erection of a single storey extension to side of the existing back addition at ground floor level; excavation of front garden and part of rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of the basement.

24 Dorville Crescent London W6 0HJ 2016/05434/FUL

Excavation of the basement by lowering the existing floor by approximately 600mm, erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side of the existing back addition; erection of a larger rear dormer roof extension to replace existing dormer; installation of a rooflight in front roof slope.

37 Maxwell Road London SW6 2HT 2017/00158/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at roof level.

19 Studland Street London W6 0JS 2016/05145/FUL

Erection of a front roof extension.

25 Overstone Road London W6 0AA 2016/04838/FUL

Erection of a hip to gable roof extension; installation of two rooflights in the front roof slope.

132 Munster Road London SW6 5RD 2017/00194/FUL

Conversion of existing dwellinghouse into 1x3 bedroom, 1x2 bedroom and 1 x 1 bedroom self-contained flats; formation of bin store and bike store in the front garden; and erection of an extension at second floor level on top of the existing back addition previously allowed by Appeal ref. APP/H5309/A/14/2220567.

503 Fulham Road London SW6 1HH 2017/00201/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at roof level including the formation of a roof terrace at third floor level to the front elevation.

1 - 9 Peel Place London SW6 1DY 2017/00126/FUL

Installation of 1no. satellite dish on the main roof of each residential unit at 1-9 Peel Place.

Barclay Hall Effie Road London SW6 1EN 2016/01101/FUL

Erection of a replacement single storey rear extension with a roof extension on top of the new extension following the demolition of existing single storey back addition.

15 Studdridge Street London SW6 3SL 2017/00065/FUL

Erection of a front and rear roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells and below the footpath to the front elevation, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; erection of an external staircase from basement to ground floor level at the rear of the property; alterations to the roof of single storey back addition to include installation of new rooflights; installation of new doors to replace the existing doors at ground floor level to the rear elevation.

30 St Peter's Road London W6 9BD 2017/00209/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a dormer window on the existing side roof slope; erection of a rear extension at first floor level, on top of the existing back addition; erection of a rear extension at ground floor level.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK) FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 21st February 2017. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013

NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13

58 - 76 Willow Vale London W12 0PB 2017/00219/VAR

I give notice that Willow Vale Innovations Limited is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Variation of condition 2, 29, 30, 31 and removal of condition 16 of planning permission ref: 2015/04568/VAR granted 19th August 2016 to allow amendment to the ground floor plan (drawing no. 1027 P16), removal of 3no on site parking spaces and to allow one parking permit for each residential unit on site.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 21st February 2017. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

Signed: **NIGEL PALLACE**
Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services
on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL

You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page.

You can also E-mail comments to: plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk

You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office **RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6** between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES ENVIRONMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU** by the date shown above.

Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081** or **020 8753 1082**.



Send us your comments about planning applications via our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning

Hammersmith & Fulham Council

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (BECKLOW GARDENS ESTATE)
(OFF STREET CAR PARK) ORDER 20**

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham propose to make the above Order under section 6, 32, 35 and 124 of and Part I to IV of schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended.

2. The general effect of the Orders would be to enable the parking places and restrictions on waiting by vehicles (yellow lines) on the Becklow Gardens Estate to be enforced under the provisions of the Traffic Management Act 2004. This means that Penalty Charge Notices could be issued by the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers to vehicles that contravene the parking restrictions, and vehicles may be removed (towed away) or immobilised (clamped) in certain cases, in the same way as on the public highway. The same rights of appeal to an adjudicator would also apply.

3. The parking restrictions on the Becklow Gardens Estate would continue to operate (without any changes) as follows:

- (a) the parking restrictions to operate Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm;
- (b) every vehicle must be parked wholly within a marked parking bay (vehicles are not permitted to park in any other areas on the estate, including footways);
- (c) parking permits to be issued in accordance with on street parking permit charges as set by the Council in respect of motor vehicles that is to say a passenger vehicle or goods carrying vehicle the overall height of which does not exceed 2.28 metres.
- (d) only vehicles displaying a valid resident's parking permit or an valid contractor's parking permit or an activated Zone V SMART Visitor permit relating to the Becklow Gardens Estate would be permitted to park in a permit holders parking bay;
- (f) resident's parking permits and SMART visitor's parking permits to be issued only to eligible residents of the Becklow Gardens Estate;
- (g) resident's permits would only be issued to residents who can show that their vehicle is registered as kept at their home address on the Becklow Gardens Estate;
- (h) A motorcycle, may be left in a parking bay free of charge, provided the use of that part of the parking place is not closed or reserved by order of the Council;
- (i) where a parking bay is indicated as being for the use of a disabled person's vehicle, only a vehicle displaying a disabled person's blue badge may be left in that parking bay.

4. A copy of the proposed Orders, the Councils statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders and documents giving more detailed particulars of the proposed Orders, can be inspected during normal office hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive until the end of a period of 6 weeks beginning with the date on which the Orders are made, or as the case may be, the Council decides not to make the Orders.

5. Any person wishing to object to the proposed Orders or make other representations should send a statement in writing to the following address:

Transport and Highways Group, Highways and Engineering Division, Environment Department,
Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU
until the expiration of 21 days from the date on which the notice is published.

Dated this 26th of January 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (EMLYN GARDENS ESTATE)
(OFF STREET CAR PARK) ORDER 20**

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham propose to make the above Order under section 6, 32, 35 and 124 of and Part I to IV of schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended.

2. The general effect of the Orders would be to enable the parking places and restrictions on waiting by vehicles (yellow lines) on the Emlyn Gardens Estate to be enforced under the provisions of the Traffic Management Act 2004. This means that Penalty Charge Notices could be issued by the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers to vehicles that contravene the parking restrictions, and vehicles may be removed (towed away) or immobilised (clamped) in certain cases, in the same way as on the public highway. The same rights of appeal to an adjudicator would also apply.

3. The parking restrictions on the Emlyn Gardens Estate would continue to operate (without any changes) as follows:

- (a) the parking restrictions to operate Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm;
- (b) every vehicle must be parked wholly within a marked parking bay (vehicles are not permitted to park in any other areas on the estate, including footways);
- (c) parking permits to be issued in accordance with on street parking permit charges as set by the Council in respect of motor vehicles that is to say a passenger vehicle or goods carrying vehicle the overall height of which does not exceed 2.28 metres.
- (d) only vehicles displaying a valid resident's parking permit or an valid contractor's parking permit or an activated Zone 1 SMART Visitor permit relating to the Emlyn Gardens Estate would be permitted to park in a permit holders parking bay;
- (f) resident's parking permits and SMART visitor's parking permits to be issued only to eligible residents of the Emlyn Gardens Estate;
- (g) resident's permits would only be issued to residents who can show that their vehicle is registered as kept at their home address on the Emlyn Gardens Estate;
- (h) A motorcycle, may be left in a parking bay free of charge, provided the use of that part of the parking place is not closed or reserved by order of the Council;
- (i) where a parking bay is indicated as being for the use of a disabled person's vehicle, only a vehicle displaying a disabled person's blue badge may be left in that parking bay.

4. A copy of the proposed Orders, the Councils statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders and documents giving more detailed particulars of the proposed Orders, can be inspected during normal office hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive until the end of a period of 6 weeks beginning with the date on which the Orders are made, or as the case may be, the Council decides not to make the Orders.

5. Any person wishing to object to the proposed Orders or make other representations should send a statement in writing to the following address:

Transport and Highways Group, Highways and Engineering Division, Environment Department,
Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU
until the expiration of 21 days from the date on which the notice is published.

Dated this 26th day of January 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

PUBLIC NOTICE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM DESIGNATION OF AN AREA FOR SELECTIVE LICENSING 2016 Section 80, Housing Act 2004

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Section 83 Housing Act 2004 (Notification Requirements Relating to Designation) that the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham acting as local housing authority in exercise of its powers under Section 80 of the Housing Act 2004 has designated the area described in paragraph 4 for selective licensing.

CITATION, COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION

1. This designation may be cited as the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Designation for an Area for Selective Licensing 2016.
2. This designation is made on **13 December 2016** and shall come into force on **5 June 2017**.
3. This designation shall cease to have effect on **4 June 2022** or earlier if the Council revokes the scheme under section 84 of the Act.

AREA TO WHICH THE DESIGNATION APPLIES

4. The designation applies to the following streets as listed at Annex A.

APPLICATION OF THE DESIGNATION

5. This designation applies to any house which is let or occupied under a tenancy or licence within the area described in paragraph 4 unless:
 - a) the house is a house in multiple occupation and is required to be licensed under Part 2 of the Act;
 - b) the tenancy or licence of the house has been granted by a registered social landlord;
 - c) the house is subject to an Interim or Final Management Order under Part 4 of the Act;
 - d) the house is subject to a temporary exemption under section 86 of the Act; or
 - e) the house is occupied under a tenancy or licence which is exempt under the Act or the occupation is of a building or part of a building so exempt as defined in The Selective Licensing of Houses (Specified Exemptions) (England) Order 2006 SI 370/2006

EFFECT OF THE DESIGNATION

6. Subject to sub paragraphs 5(a) to (e) every house in the area specified in paragraph 4 that is occupied under a tenancy or licence shall be required to be licensed under section 85 of the Act.

INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS/APPLICATION FOR LICENCE

7. If you are a landlord, managing agent, or a tenant, and wish to inspect this designation, apply for a licence or require further information, this is available from:

**Private Housing, Environmental Health,
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham,
Town Hall, King Street,
Hammersmith London W6 9JU
Email: phs@lbhf.gov.uk Tel: 020 8753 1221**

The designation does not require confirmation by the Secretary of State and falls within a general approval issued by the Secretary of State under Section 82 of the Act, namely the Housing Act 2004: Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation and Selective Licensing of Other Residential Accommodation (England) General Approval 2010.

Any private landlord, property manager or tenant owning, managing or occupying a property within this area is advised to seek advice from the Council's Housing Standards Team by telephone on **020 8753 1221** by email to **phs@lbhf.gov.uk** or in writing to London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Town Hall, King Street, Hammersmith, London W6 9JU to determine whether their property is affected by the designation. Private landlords who own property in the area or any person that controls or manages property in the area will be required from **5 June 2017** to apply for a licence.

ENFORCEMENT

8. Upon the Designation coming into force on 5 June 2017 any person who operates a licensable property without a licence shall be guilty of an offence under Section 95(1) of the Act. A person who breaches a condition of a licence is liable to prosecution and upon summary conviction liable to an unlimited fine.

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Executive approval 12 December 2016

Annex A: Streets in Hammersmith & Fulham where Selective Licensing applies

Adie Road	Harwood Terrace	St John's Close
Aldensley Road	Hawksmoor Street	Stanwick Road
Armada Road	Hazlitt Mews	Station Approach
Askew Crescent	Hilary Close	Sterne Street
Askew Road	Hofland Road	Studland Street
Aspenlea Road	Hopgood Street	Sullivan Road
Astrop Mews	Imperial Road	Talgarth Road
Astrop Terrace	Jerdan Place	Tamarisk Square
Augustine Road	Kenmont Gardens	Telephone Place
Barb Mews	Kilmarsh Road	Terrick Street
Basuto Road	King Street	Trevarion Road
Batoum Gardens	King's Road	Tyrawley Road
Batson Street	Lator Street	Upper Mall
Beaconsfield Terrace Road	Lamington Street	Uxbridge Road
Beavor Lane	Lanfrey Place	Dalling Road
Bentworth Road	Langford Road	Dawes Road
Beryl Road	Larnach Road	Devonport Road
Bishop's Avenue	Leamore Street	Down Place
Bloemfontein Road	Lettice Street	Dunraven Road
Bloemfontein Way	Leysfield Road	Eddiscombe Road
Bothwell Street	Lilac Street	Effie Place
Bramble Gardens	Lime Grove	Effie Road
Britannia Road	Loris Road	Elysium Place
Broomhouse Lane	Lower Mall	Epirus Mews
Bryony Road	Luxemburg Gardens	Erconwald Street
Bulwer Street	Macbeth Street	Fane Street
Byam Street	Macfarlane Road	Farm Lane
Cactus Walk	Mandela Close	Felden Street
Cambria Street	Palliser Road	Felding Road
Cambridge Grove	Parsons Green	Filmer Road
Cassidy Road	Parsons Green Lane	Firth Gardens
Cathnor Road	Peterborough Mews	Maurice Street
Caverswall Street	Poplar Mews	Meldon Close
Caxton Road	Porten Road	Melina Road
Chancellors Road	Primula Street	Melrose Terrace
Charlow Close	Purcell Crescent	Micklethwaite Road
Clancarty Road	Ravenscourt Avenue	Milson Road
Colehill Lane	Ravenscourt Park	Molesford Road
Commonwealth Avenue	Ravenscourt Place	Moore Park Road
Coningham Mews	Raynham Road	New King's Road
Coulter Lane	Redmore Road	Norbroke Street
Crabtree Lane	Reporton Road	Normand Road
Daffodil Street	Rickett Street	North End Crescent
Foxglove Street	Rigault Road	North End Road
Frithville Gardens	Rockley Road	Old Oak Road
Fulham Broadway	Rosebury Road	Olgar Grove
Fulham High Street	Ryecroft Street	Ormiston Close
Fulham Park Road	Scrubs Lane	Overstone Road
Fulham Road	Shepherd's Bush Place	Vereker Road
Galloway Road	Shepherd's Bush Road	Wallflower Street
Glenroy Street	Sherbrooke Road	Waterford Road
Glenholme Road	Shortlands	Watermeadow Lane
Goldhawk Mews Goldhawk Road	Snowbury Road	Wells Road
Goodwin Road	South Black Lion Lane	Wood Lane
Gorleston Street	Southcombe Street	Woodlawn Road
Grimston Road	Southerton Road	Woodstock Grove
Gwyn Close	Spring Vale Terrace	Yew Tree Road

PUBLIC NOTICE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM DESIGNATION OF AN AREA FOR ADDITIONAL LICENSING OF HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMOs)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Section 59 Housing Act 2004 (Notification Requirements Relating to Designation) that the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham acting as local housing authority in exercise of its powers under Section 56 of the Housing Act 2004 ("the Act") has designated for additional licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation ("HMOs") the area described in paragraph 4.

CITATION, COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION

1. This designation may be cited as the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Designation for an Area for Additional Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation 2016.
2. This designation is made on **13 December 2016** and shall come into force on **5 June 2017**.
3. This designation shall cease to have effect on **4 June 2022** or earlier if the Council revokes the scheme under section 60 of the Act.

AREA TO WHICH THE DESIGNATION APPLIES

4. The designation shall apply to the whole area of the district of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

APPLICATION OF THE DESIGNATION

5. This designation applies to all HMOs as defined by section 254 of the Housing Act 2004 that are occupied by 3 or more persons comprising 2 or more households, within the area described in paragraph 4 unless -
 - a) the building is of a description specified in Annex A (Buildings that are not HMOs for the purpose of the Act - other than Part 1);
 - b) the HMO is subject to an Interim or Final Management Order under Part 4 of the Act;
 - c) the HMO is subject to a temporary exemption under section 62 of the Act; or
 - d) the HMO is required to be licensed under section 55 (2) (a) of the Act (mandatory licensing).

EFFECT OF THE DESIGNATION

6. Subject to sub paragraphs 5(a) to (d) above, every HMO of the description specified in that paragraph in the area specified in paragraph 4 shall be required to be licensed under section 61 of the Act.

The designation was given general approval by the Executive Member for Housing under a delegated authority from the Executive of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Council. The designation falls within a description of designations in relation to which the Secretary of State has given a general approval under section 58 of the Housing Act 2004, namely The Housing Act 2004: Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation and Selective Licensing of Other Residential Accommodation (England) General Approval 2015 which came into force on the 1st April 2015.

A person having control of or managing a prescribed HMO must apply to the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham for a licence.

INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS/APPLICATION FOR LICENCE

7. Any landlord, managing agent or other person managing a HMO or any tenant within the Borough may inspect the designation, apply for a licence or seek further information or advice as to whether their property is affected by the designation from:
**Private Housing, Environmental Health, London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Town Hall, King Street
Hammersmith, London W6 9JU
Email: phs@lbhf.gov.uk Tel: 020 8753 1221**

ENFORCEMENT

8. Upon the Designation coming into force on **5 June 2017** any person who fails to apply for a licence in the designated area shall be guilty of an offence under Section 72(1) of the Act, and shall be liable to prosecution and liable to an unlimited fine. In addition, they may be required to repay up to 12 months' rent if the tenant or the Council, in the case of housing benefit tenants, apply to the Residential Property Tribunal under the provisions of section 73 and section 74 of the Housing Act 2004 for a rent repayment order.

Annex A: Buildings that are not HMOs for the purpose of the Act - other than Part 1 4

Buildings controlled or managed by public sector bodies etc 5

1. A building where the person managing or having control of it is 6
 - a) a local housing authority
 - (aa) a non-profit registered provider of social housing
 - (ab) a police and crime commissioner under section 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 or the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime under section 3 of the same Act.
 - (c) a fire and rescue authority under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004
 - (d) a health service body within the meaning of section 9 of the National Health Service Act 2006
 - (e) a body which is controlled by a social landlord under Part 1 of the Housing Act 1996.
 - (f) a profit-making registered provider of social housing where it is social housing within the meaning of Part 2 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 7

Buildings controlled or managed by a co-operative society 8

2. A building where -
 - (a) the person managing or having control of it is a co-operative society whose rules are such as to secure that each of the conditions set out below is met, and
 - (b) no person who occupies premises in the building does so by virtue of an assured tenancy, a secure tenancy or a protected tenancy 9
 The conditions are:
 - (a) that membership of the society is restricted to persons who are occupiers or prospective occupiers of buildings managed or controlled by the society,
 - (b) that all management decisions of the society are made by the members (or a specified quorum of members) at a general meeting which all members are entitled to, and invited to, attend,
 - (c) that each member has equal voting rights at such a meeting, and
 - (d) that, if a person occupies premises in the building and is not a member, that person is an occupier of the premises only as a result of sharing occupation of them with a member at the member's invitation.
 For these purposes "co-operative society" means a body that -
 - (a) is registered as a co-operative society under the 2014 Act 10 or is a pre-commencement society (within the meaning of that Act) that meets the condition in section 2(2)(a)(i) of that Act, and is neither -
 - (i) a non-profit registered provider of social housing, nor
 - (ii) registered as a social landlord under Part 1 of the Housing Act 1996.
 - 4 Schedule 14 of the Act and SI 2006/373
 - 5 Paragraph 2 of schedule 14.
 - 6 For the definition of "person managing" and "person having control" see section 263 of the Act.
 - 7 Paragraph 2A of Schedule 14.
 - 8 Paragraph 2B of Schedule 14.
 - 9 "assured tenancy" has the same meaning as in Part 1 of the Housing Act 1988; "protected tenancy" has the same meaning as in the Rent Act 1977; "secure tenancy" has the same meaning as in Part 4 of the Housing Act 1985.
 - 10 The 2014 Act" means the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.

Buildings regulated by other enactments 11

3. A tenancy, licence or occupation of a house which is regulated under the following enactments:
 - (a) sections 87 to 87D of the Children Act 1989
 - (b) section 43 (4) of the Prison Act 1952
 - (c) section 34 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002
 - (d) The Secure Training Centre Rules 1998 12
 - (e) The Prison Rules 1999 13
 - (f) The Young Offender Institute Rules 2000 14
 - (g) The Detention Centre Rules 2001 15
 - (h) The Criminal Justice and Court Service Act 2000 (Approved Premises) Regulations 2001 16
 - (i) The Care Homes Regulations 2001 17
 - (j) The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 18
 - (k) The Residential Family Centres Regulations 2002 19

Certain student lettings etc 20

4. A building -
 - (i) which is managed or controlled by a specified educational establishment or is of a specified description of such establishments and
 - (ii) the occupiers of the house or dwelling are undertaking a full time course of further or higher education at the specified establishment 21 and
 - (iii) the house or dwelling is being managed in conformity with an Approved Code of Practice for the management of exempted accommodation under section 233 of the Act. 22

Religious communities 23

5. A building which is occupied principally for the purpose of a religious community whose principal occupation is prayer, contemplation, education or the relief of suffering except if the building is a converted block of flats to which section 257 of the Act applies.

Buildings occupied by owners 24

6. A building which is only occupied by -
 - (i) one or more persons who hold the freehold or a leasehold interest granted for a term of more than 21 years of the whole, or any part of, the building
 - (ii) and/or any member of the household 25 of that person or persons but this exemption does not apply to a converted block of flats to which section 257 of the Act applies, except for ascertaining the status of any flat within the block.

Buildings occupied by resident landlord etc 26

7. A building which is occupied by a person or persons to whom paragraph 6 applies (subject to the proviso therein) and no more than two 27 other persons, not forming part of the owner's household.

Buildings occupied by two persons 28

8. Any building which is only occupied by two persons (forming two households)

Meaning of "building"

9. In this annex a "building" includes a part of the building 29
 - 11 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 14.
 - 12 SI1998/472 as amended by 2003/3005
 - 13 SI1999/728 as amended by SI 2000/1794, SI 2000/2641, SI 2001/1149, SI 2002/2116, SI 2002/3135, SI 2003/3301 and 2005/869
 - 14 SI2000/3371 as amended by SI 2002/2117, SI 2002/3135 and 2005/897
 - 15 SI 2001/238 NB Section 66(4) of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 provides that the reference to a detention centre is to be construed as a reference to a removal centre as defined in Part VIII of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
 - 16 SI2001/850
 - 17 2001/3965 as amended by SI 2002/865, SI 2003/534, SI 2003/1590, SI 2003/1703, SI 2003/1845, s2004/664, SI 2004/696, 2004/1770, 2004/2071 and 2004/3168
 - 18 SI 2015/541
 - 19 sa 2002/3213 as amended by SI2004/664, 2004/865 and 2004/3168
 - 20 Paragraph 4 of Schedule 14
 - 21 Houses in Multiple Occupation (Specified Educational Establishments) (England) Regulations 2013/1601
 - 22 Housing (Codes of Management Practice) (Student Accommodation) (England) Order 2010/2615
 - 23 Paragraph 5 of Schedule 14
 - 24 Paragraph 6 of Schedule 14
 - 25 For the definition of "household" see section 258 (2) and paragraphs 3 and 4 of SI 373/2006

Email your sports news, reports and pictures to Tony McDonald at sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

New boy wears iconic 10

QUEENS Park Rangers' boss Ian Holloway hopes new signings will kick-start his side's Championship campaign after Saturday's dismal home defeat by relegation-threatened Burton Albion, writes *Tony McDonald*.

Rangers have already brought in Manchester United midfielder Sean Goss for a reported £500,000 fee and were being strongly linked with Fulham's £1million-rated, 6ft 6ins striker Matt Smith before LWN Sport went to press and the transfer window closes tonight.

Speaking after the 2-1 home loss to Burton, who climbed out of the drop zone despite having lost seven of their previous eight league games, 'Ollie' said: "I need to bring the right sort of people in if I can. We've got lots of things spinning at the moment. Which way are they going to drop? We're not sure yet."

"But hopefully they'll give me the right sort of selection problems so I can build a team that can win different types of games."

German-born Goss, 21, did not make a first team appearance for United, whom he joined from Exeter City in the summer of 2012.

The left-footed midfielder, who has signed a three-and-a-half year deal, is expected to make his Rangers debut at Newcastle United tomorrow night (Weds). Introduced to R's fans before Saturday's game, Goss said: "I'm delighted that the deal is done - absolutely buzzing."

"I'm at the point now in my career where I need to be playing first team football, week in, week out, so the opportunity to move to QPR was just something I had to pursue."

"Ian (Holloway) and Les (Ferdinand) had a massive influence on me. They told me everything I wanted to hear. The way they both spoke about QPR, showing such passion for the football club, was really special."

"Now it's up to me to repay them both and everyone else at QPR for showing their faith in me."

Holloway told www.qpr.co.uk: "He's a young player with great po-

tential and I feel there are players at Manchester United who can get a little bit lost, because they've always got the best of the best of the best."

Goss has been handed Hoops' iconic number 10 shirt made famous by legends Rodney Marsh and Stan Bowles. "I know the pressure that comes with the number 10 shirt and that's something I will relish," he said.

"I've got great confidence in my own ability. You've got to believe in yourself as a footballer otherwise you won't achieve what you set out to achieve."

"This is a really exciting move for me and I can't wait to get going for QPR."

With two away games in three days this week, at second-placed Newcastle tomorrow and second-bottom Blackburn Rovers on Saturday, Holloway took responsibility for his decision to rest in-form striker Jamie Mackie and midfielder Ryan Manning, who have both been integral to R's recent impressive run of three wins and a draw that ended on Saturday.

The manager admitted: "I made a couple of changes by resting Mackie and Manning and, boy, did we miss them. I wanted to protect them both with three games in a week - and in the end we missed them more than I thought we would."

"I take full responsibility for the team selection, because we really missed the spirit, drive and personality that Mackie brings."

At 31, perhaps Mackie needs protecting a little more than others, especially after such a lengthy injury lay-off. But Manning? He's 20, recently signed a new contract, scored Rangers' only goal in the previous game - the 1-1 draw with Fulham - and must be chomping for more of the same at an exciting stage of his career.

It was 17th-placed QPR's seventh league defeat of the campaign at Loftus Road, where they have won only four times in 13 matches. Even a welcome return to the traditional, though now rare, three o'clock/Saturday afternoon kick-off slot couldn't at-



Conor Washington's goal came too late to save QPR from a disappointing home defeat by lowly Burton
Picture: Rob Newell

tract more than 12,116 hardy souls - the club's lowest league gate this season. The stay-aways will consider they made the correct call.

Holloway added: "It was a bitterly disappointing display. I'm desperately disappointed. We didn't show any of the momentum we've created recently. I'm gutted with the result."

He added: "We've lost again at home and I didn't enjoy it one bit. Their first goal was well struck but we could've stopped it. We should've stopped it. We should've closed it down."

"The second goal was a killer - an awful goal for us to concede," he

added.

The only bright spot on a gloomy afternoon in W12 was the impact made by Conor Washington, who replaced Grant Hall at half-time and halved the deficit when he netted his third league goal of the season in the 63rd minute, after Luke Murphy and former QPR loanee Lloyd Dyer had given the visitors a 2-0 lead.

"I was pleased for Conor, he took his goal well," continued Holloway. "But we've got to be braver and want it more - we didn't show that today. We've got to learn after this defeat. There's certainly a lot to take away from it."

Under 18s extend their lead

FROM BACK PAGE

"Yeah, of course it's nice to be back," said the 21-year-old. "To get 90 minutes and to finish it with a win as well, it was a great day."

Ake played as a left wing-back against Bees and knows he is a serious contender to push regular left-back Marcos Alonso for more first team opportunities.

"I trained at wing-back a couple of times, also more as a left centre-back, but in the last couple of days I've been training at left wing-back. It's good to experience playing different positions."

"It's a hard position but I enjoyed it a lot. There's a lot of up and down. You need a lot of energy but it's good to play."

"You have to get forward a lot - if the ball is on the other side, you're basically almost a winger. Hopefully I can keep improving a lot of things."

"I'm used to playing different positions. I played as a left centre-back a lot of times this season (at Bournemouth). It's not too difficult, you just have to switch and then you're fine."

"On the first day when I was back, he (Conte) called me into his office and explained the different positions he sees me in and what he expects from me when I play there. He said that, for him, age doesn't matter and I have to show him that I'm ready to be here. That's what I do in training - I try to train hard, play well and hopefully he'll see it."

"It was positive that he called me back. That gave me confidence. You've seen Nathaniel Chalobah and Ruben Loftus-Cheek getting games this season, so it's good."

Chelsea have been much criticised for their use of the loan system but Ake is a positive example of its benefits.

"I think I've also developed more as a player," he said. "I gained a lot of experience in the last two years, played a lot of games."

"In the Premier League it's tough. When I went to Watford I was still maybe a boy but I learned a lot that season and this season as well. Playing centre-back, you have to win balls in the air and I think I've learned. I think I was 19 when I went (on loan). That's a good age to go and get experience and play a lot of games. That was important for me, I needed it. You learn so much when you play week in, week out, and you come back a more complete player."

■ **CHELSEA'S** under-18s increased their lead at the top of the league after beating Tottenham 3-2 on Saturday.

Goals from George McEachran and a brace from Martell Taylor-Crossdale secured the points for Jody Morris' side.

Another youngster has gone out on loan to feeder club Vitesse Arnhem. Mukhtar Ali, 19, has joined the Dutch side until the end of the season.

Whites in spot of bother

WANTED! A professional footballer who can kick a ball into the net from 12 yards, unimpeded.

Applications, please, to: S. Jokanovic, c/o Fulham FC, Craven Cottage, SW6.

Whites' head coach must be desperate to find a player who can fulfil what seems a fairly simple task, because FIVE of his men have so far made the act of taking a penalty kick look ridiculously difficult.

Chris Martin wasted a gold chance to grab a 90th minute equaliser at Reading last week when he saw his spot-kick saved by Royals' keeper Ali Al-Habsi. To add insult to injury, Reading's winner came from a penalty - Roy Beerens following up to score on the rebound after John Swift's shot was only parried by Fulham goalie David Button.

It was Martin's second successive penalty failure in three days, after Queens Park Rangers' Alex Smithies had denied him from the same distance in the previous game.

Slaviša Jokanović's side have now had seven of their past nine league and cup penalties either saved or missed. They are 11th, five points off the play-off places, after

just their second defeat in nine league games.

But if all their missed penalties had found the net (and, for the sake of argument, we assume no other goals would have been scored in those matches), Fulham would have collected an additional SEVEN points . . . and now be sixth in the Championship table.

Ones that got away:

Oct 1 v QPR (H) - lost 1-2 - Cairney

pen saved, Aluko pen hit post

Dec 13 v Rotherham (H) - won 2-1

- Martin pen saved

Jan 2 v Brighton (H) - lost 1-2 -

Johansen pen saved

Jan 21 v QPR (A) - drew 1-1 -

Martin pen saved

Jan 24 v Reading (A) - lost 0-1 -

Martin pen saved

To add to this tale of woe in the league, Cauley Woodrow also had his penalty saved last September when Fulham were beaten 2-1 at home by Bristol City and knocked out of the EFL Cup.

A perplexed Jokanović said: "I cannot explain. It's a problem at the moment and my responsibility is to find a solution."

"We made many important things

this season but all anyone is talking about is penalties. I am going to find a solution and I'm sure we're going to score the next time we have the opportunity to shoot from the penalty spot. From another side, we are a very offensive team, many times we are in the opposite box. I expect that by the end of the season we are going to have five, six, seven more penalties, and we have to find the players who have enough confidence and enough quality to score the goal from the penalty spot."

The two penalties Fulham did manage to score this season both came from the boot of leading scorer Martin, who netted from 12 yards in emphatic home victories against Huddersfield Town (5-0) and Barnsley (2-0).

Although Fulham's penalty record is the worst in the top four divisions of English football, at least they are not the poorest in Britain. THREE different Dunfermline Athletic players all had their penalties saved in ONE HALF of their 3-1 Scottish Championship defeat by Dundee United last September!

And Hull City's Abel Hernandez seemed to have contracted Fulhami-

tis at Craven Cottage on Sunday, when he saw his TWO penalties saved by Whites' keeper Marcus Bettinelli in TWO MINUTES late on in the FA Cup fourth round tie. Not that it did the Premier League strugglers any further harm - Fulham were already cruising to a 4-1 win.

They were sent on their way to the fifth round for the first time since 2011 thanks to an early strike by Aluko against his former club. Although Evandros levelled for Hull on 49 minutes, further goals by Martin, Ryan Sessegnon and Johansen earned the home side a comfortable passage.

After two consecutive away games in the Championship and the Cup victory, Fulham are back on the road again twice in three days, with visits to Burton Albion tomorrow night (Weds) and Birmingham City on Saturday.

Last week, Fulham graduates Cauley Woodrow and Lasse Vigen Christensen both joined Burton on loan until the end of this season, although neither is eligible to play against their parent club when the teams meet at the Pirelli Stadium.

Tony McDonald

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Chris Martin was booed by his own supporters after scoring in Sunday's 4-1 FA Cup hammering of Hull City at Craven Cottage

Martin booed by own fans

Focus on Craven Cottage

FULHAM'S on-loan striker Chris Martin was booed by his own supporters after scoring in Sunday's 4-1 FA Cup hammering of Hull City at Craven Cottage.

In the latest bizarre twist to a sorry saga, Derby County were accused of arrogance after announcing on Saturday that Martin had signed a new three-and-a-half year contract with them... but would remain with Fulham until the end of this season.

He might have assumed that by scoring Whites' second goal to restore their lead in the 54th minute, the Fulham faithful would cut him some slack, especially after he set up Ryan Sessegnon for the third.

But a section of the 15,143 crowd were having none of it and showed their contempt by booing the experienced forward, who remains the club's top scorer this season with 10 goals.

Fulham will hope Martin retains his professional integrity as we enter the crucial last three months of the campaign – even though he knows that any goals he scores could potentially dent his parent club's chances of returning to the Premier League and the lucrative TV riches that await. Ninth-placed Derby are just three points and two positions about Whites in the table. Could Martin yet face a conflict of interests?

On signing his new deal, he said: "At the start of this season I was not in the previous (Derby) manager's plans, which is a decision that I completely understood and respected.

"As a result I had the opportunity to move to Fulham on loan, which gave me the chance to play first-team football elsewhere. "I am thankful that the board only allowed the move on a temporary basis, because I really didn't want to leave Derby and my family is settled in the area too.

"Derby County is a fantastic club with so many things going for it and driven desire to reach the Premier League. I am very happy that the club and the manager see me as part of the long-term future. I am committed to being as successful as I possibly can be with Derby County."

In the meantime, he must continue to do his best for Fulham.

Fulham head coach Slaviša Jokanović appears relaxed about developments, saying: "His situation is fantastic. He signed a new contract, which is great news for himself and his family. It's probably his highest contract but in our situation there is no change – he is going to stay with us. He showed commitment today for working with the club.

"I understand why Derby like this player, they believe the best Derby striker is in my dressing room. I believe the same. But what are we going to do? If they want to use him, I have to send him back at the end of the season. We have an option for him to stay for next season and in this business, you never know."

On Sunday, Martin was replaced in the 83rd minute by debutant Thanos Petros, the 25-year-old defensive midfielder on loan from Werder Bremen until the end of the season.

Stephen Humphrys signed a new Fulham contract before joining Shrewsbury Town on loan until the end of the season.

The 19-year-old striker's new deal ties him to the club until the summer of 2019, with an option to extend by a further year.

Vital week in title race

Blues brush aside Brentford threat before bigger tests



This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

By Paul Lagan

CHELSEA cruised into the fifth round of the FA Cup on Saturday with a convincing 4-0 win over west London neighbours Brentford. But it's tonight's crunch Premier League match at Liverpool that has been occupying the thoughts of the boys from SW6 all week.

LWN Sport went to press ahead of last night's FA Cup draw but whoever they drew will be pushed to one side as Blues head up to Anfield to take on fourth place Liverpool, who are 10 points behind Antonio Conte's league leaders.

Then on Saturday, Arsenal – now eight points behind their London rivals – arrive at Stamford Bridge for a lunchtime top-of-the-table showdown.

Six points from these two games will deal a significant blow to the title aspirations of the chasing sides.

Certainly head coach Conte is fully aware of the significance of this week and, mentally at least, is fully focused on the task ahead.

Knowing that Liverpool have lost their last three matches at Anfield in all competitions, Conte is aware of the wounded beast and hopes to prepare his team accordingly.

"I don't think Liverpool were thinking about our upcoming game when they lost to Wolves at home in the FA Cup on Saturday," he said.

"But it happened and I think that loss is very important for us. It means we have to start this game well and pay attention. For sure, Liverpool now is a very tough game for us. It has come on the back of bad defeats for them and for this reason the focus will be very high. We must know this, prepare in the right way, for sure. It won't be easy."

Conte is surprised by their recent poor results. As well as the 2-1 home defeat by Wolves, Jurgen Klopp's Reds have lost 1-0 at home in the League Cup semi-final to Southampton and, before that, went down 3-2 on Merseyside to struggling Swansea City in the Premier League.

"That is strange," he said. "When you play at Anfield Road, it's very difficult for opposition teams. Our mission is that we will have a great difficulty facing Liverpool. Because when you arrive there after they have had three defeats, we know that they will be very angry, they will be dangerous."

Chelsea lost 2-1 to Liverpool at The Bridge in September and then 3-0 away to Arsenal a week later. But Conte knows that his side is totally different to the one that capitulated so easily early in the campaign.

"For sure, that is true," he said. "If



Chelsea keeper Thibaut Courtois is poised for action as defenders David Luiz and Cesar Azpilicueta battle with Liverpool striker Divock Origi when the teams last met at Stamford Bridge on September 16

Picture Rob Newell

you remember after the game we lost against Liverpool, I said that Liverpool are already a team, Chelsea are not a team. I think in the four months since, a lot of things have changed in my team – we have grown and improved a lot, grown in confidence. It will be more difficult for Liverpool now, in comparison to the first game against us."

■ONE man who knows, barring injuries, that he won't be on the pitch for the next two crucial matches is goalkeeper Asmir Begovic. The 29-year-old Bosnian, signed from Stoke City for £8million in July 2015, might have already left the club before the transfer window closes at the end of today.

Bournemouth, where he had a three-month loan spell in 2007, are favourites to sign him but he will only move to the south coast if Chelsea have found a suitable replacement. Begovic, who is putting game-time ahead of winning medals at The Bridge, said on Sunday: "My future is something that will be sorted out over the next couple of days – obviously the club will decide.

"For me, it is about wanting to play. I find it very difficult not playing for a long time and that's something that I would like to do. If the club would allow me to do that, under the right circumstances, then that's what I'll do.

"If not, I will continue to work hard and support everyone and the team. If everyone is happy, then I hope something gets done but, if not, I have a huge respect for the manager and the club. They know my feelings and it is nothing other than wanting to play.

"He knows I am desperate to play and that's all it is really. If he can make it happen for me, then he will.

"I hope the team lifts the title and maybe I will be part of that. But it is difficult when you don't play for a certain amount of time and that overrides everything. I am a footballer, I like to play and I came here to challenge myself. I have enjoyed everything so far and if I am still here, then I will continue to work hard and that's all I can do."

Begovic still believes he can compete with Thibaut Courtois as first choice keeper.

"Of course," he said. "Because chances to play for top clubs like Chelsea don't come around every day. If you don't believe in yourself and think things can happen, then you shouldn't be in this game. I truly believed there was a chance and something could happen and, ultimately, I didn't get as many games as I would have liked.

"Thibaut is absolutely on fire this year and is one of the best goalkeepers in the world, I knew that, and I wanted

to test myself against those guys. I feel like I am one of them but, unfortunately, no club is big enough to have two really good goalkeepers.

"I am 29-30 in the summer and I feel fantastic. I feel in such great shape that it would be a waste not to play and show people what I can do. I do believe that I can play at this level and show everyone what I can do, and that remains to be seen."

Leaving Chelsea will be a wrench but he knows that they are in good hands.

"It is the best squad in the league, for sure," he said. "It is a disposal of riches but that is what this club can do and have. It is fantastic working with these guys on a daily basis. It is pretty awesome. I think you need to rotate and not having Champions League may have helped us to focus a little bit on our training and everything else."

■WITH Begovic expected to be going out the revolving Stamford Bridge door, another is heading in and he is delighted to be back.

Dutch under-21 star Nathan Ake was recalled from his loan spell at Bournemouth this month and played the full 90 minutes in the weekend's Cup win against Brentford.

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